

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

German to stay in Syria some time

DAMASCUS (R) — West German Ralph Schray, taken to Damascus after being held for 10 days as a hostage in Lebanon, might stay in Syria for some time, diplomats said Friday. They said Schray, 30, who has a German father and Lebanese mother, knew little German and was unlikely to feel at home in West Germany. Schray's captors, the "Western Struggle," had demanded the release of two Lebanese in West Germany on kidnapping and abduction charges. The group said Wednesday it was releasing him after personal efforts by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad produced "commitments and guarantees." Schray was released at dawn Thursday into the custody of Syrian military officials, who took him to Damascus. "Why should he go to Germany? He has never been there," said one embassy official when asked when Schray was planning to leave. But diplomats said he might be asked to visit Bonn to tell the authorities about the circumstances of his abduction. Schray is believed to be staying at the West German embassy in Damascus with his Lebanese wife, who arrived from Beirut Thursday.

Volume 13 Number 3722

AMMAN SATURDAY MARCH 5, 1988, RAJAB 16, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King confers with Mubarak, Assad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Friday night telephoned His Majesty King Hussein and welcomed him home and exchanged with him views on current developments in the area and the latest American proposals to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. His Majesty telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and exchanged with him opinions and information on the international activities towards the Middle East especially the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the American views regarding peace in the region.

Resistance fighters attack SLA posts

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance fighters attacked two positions manned by Israeli-backed militia on the edge of the self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon Friday, security sources said. They said South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen in the village of Kfar Tibnit and the hilltops of Ali Al Taher on the edge of the zone came under fire at dawn. The SLA's "Voice of Ainal" radio station confirmed both attacks and reported no casualties. It said SLA militiamen combed nearby areas in search of the fighters. The security sources said the SLA attacked, causing heavy damages. No casualties were reported.

Dutch hold Iran-bound missile fuel component

ROTTERDAM (AP) — Dutch authorities who last week impounded the cargo of an Iranian ship said Friday the freighter carried ammonium perchlorate, which explosives experts say is a component for missile fuel. A total of approximately 268 tonnes of the chemical, packed in eight containers, was taken off the Iranian freighter Iran Adalat last Friday, according to Hendrika Samson, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office here.

Arafat to discuss PLO-Syrian ties with Soviet leaders

ABU DHABI (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will discuss his strained ties with Syria on a visit to Moscow later this month, Palestinian sources said Friday. They said Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would meet Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the March 15 trip. Palestinian sources said in Beirut that a top PLO official was to visit Syria soon for fence-mending talks, the first such meeting in almost five years. They said a team led by Salah Khalaf, a close aide to Arafat, would have talks with senior officials to try to mend the rift between Arafat and Syria.

Chernobyl mishap cost \$13 billion

MOSCOW (R) — The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster has cost the Soviet Union eight billion roubles (\$13 billion) and was perhaps the most expensive accident ever, a newspaper said Friday.

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Car bomb defused near Shultz hotel Uprising death toll rises; journalists barred from W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded several others Friday after the army barred journalists from entering the occupied West Bank from Jerusalem.

Police earlier defused a car bomb a few hundred metres from U.S. Secretary of State George

Shultz's hotel as he met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to present a formal Middle East

peace plan in writing. "It was a powerful device... which would have caused great damage had it exploded," police said.

Sources quoted by the AP and Reuters said an army patrol shot dead an Arab and wounded another in Arrabah, near Jenin, when they were attacked by hundreds of residents throwing stones, bottles and sticks.

Palestinian sources said Mohammad Ahmad Salah, 18, was killed and 15 people were wounded when soldiers opened fire on protesters in the village of Al Khader, south of Bethlehem.

The shootings brought to at least 81 the Palestinian death toll in the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza that began Dec. 9. About 1,000 Arabs have been wounded by army gunfire and beatings.

Demonstrations, in which anti-Shultz slogans were shouted, erupted throughout the occupied areas after Friday noon prayers. One woman was shot in the right leg during a protest in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, the Palestine Press Service (PPS) reported.

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Fateh says it planted carbomb

BEIRUT (AP) — The mainstream Palestinian group, Fateh, claimed responsibility for an attempt to explode a carbomb Friday in Jerusalem and said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was the target.

Fateh, in a communique telephoned to the AP office in west Beirut, said its military command "instructed the Limassol martyrs group to park a bomb-laden car in front of the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem targeting Shultz, the messenger of imperialism."

"The driver had an accident and the car crashed into a power pole about 30 minutes before the time set for the bomb to explode," the communique said.

"The driver deserted the vehicle and managed to escape," the communique said.

"We warn Shultz and all agents of imperialism against reaching out for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the communique said.

Panama faces cash crunch

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Commerce and industry returned to normal Friday after organisers ended a general protest strike, but banks remained closed and authorities blamed U.S. legal action for preventing them from receiving funds.

The National Bank of Panama issued a communique advising local banks it could not meet their requests for money because U.S. authorities prevented the shipment of dollars, the official currency of Panama.

Long lines formed early Friday outside some international banks, which stayed open throughout the four-day strike. Even they appeared to have cash flow problems.

The National Bank said it had asked the Republic National Bank in New York Thursday to send \$10 million in cash to satisfy local banks' request for tender. But it said Republic authorities advised them by telephone that the funds were frozen by legal action taken on behalf of Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was ousted from the presidency last week by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's military strongman.

"This legal action, which we consider arbitrary and without any foundation, has been taken to harm this institution and the national banking system without giving any clarification or any chance to defend ourselves," said the communique. It said it had not yet received formal legal notification of the action from Republic or U.S. authorities.

Organisers calling off the general strike said a money crunch in the next few days will paralyse the nation and keep up pressure on Noriega's government.

"Checks are not clearing, there is no cash and businesses without currency cannot work, so there will be a de facto strike," Aurelio Barria, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, told reporters Thursday.

The work stoppage, which began Monday and was called off Thursday night, was aimed at forcing Noriega from power after he was fired Feb. 25 by Delvalle.

Algeria, Tunisia call for Arab summit on uprising

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria and Tunisia have called for a special Arab summit to support the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

A joint communique issued Thursday night after talks in Algiers between Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his Algerian counterpart Chadli Benjedid said the two leaders hailed the "heroic resistance of the Palestinian people" in the West Bank and Gaza.

They called for the "intensification of collective action to liberate occupied Arab territories" and for the creation of a Palestinian state.

"With this in view, the two presidents consider that in the circumstances an extraordinary Arab summit could give the required impetus to the Palestinian popular uprising," the communique said.

The two presidents said the only way to achieve a durable solution of the Middle East conflict was to convene an international conference under United Nations auspices, with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) taking part.

On North Africa, they expressed the need to "widen and enrich" a treaty which links Algeria to Mauritania and Tunisia.

Diplomats said this meant that the treaty, which amounts to a non-aggression pact, would be widened to include Libya after its recent rapprochement with Algeria and Tunisia.

The call for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Palestinian uprising picked up support Thursday with backing from South Yemen.

An official source at the Aden Foreign Ministry said that convening a summit was an "urgent necessity under the escalation of the struggle by the valiant Palestinians against the Israeli occupation."

A day earlier, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad said his country would not hesitate to attend any Arab meeting if the Algerian proposal was officially endorsed.

Arab tour reportedly planned

Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper reported that a group of Arab foreign ministers would also seek international backing for the Palestinian uprising during an imminent tour of the capitals of the five permanent member countries of the U.N. Security Council.

The daily said the ministers would take a representative of the PLO with them.

Shultz presents formal peace plan to Arab, Israeli leaders

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Friday handed President Hafez Al Assad an American proposal for Middle East peace talks, and the Syrian leader made "several remarks" on the suggestion.

Syrian presidential spokesman Jibril Kourieh said after the 2½-hour meeting that Shultz handed Assad "a written message from President Ronald Reagan, containing the American proposal for a comprehensive settlement in the region."

Shultz, Kourieh added, noted that he had delivered the same message to "all the concerned leaders in the area," a reference to Shultz's meeting with His Majesty King Hussein in London on Thursday and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday in occupied Jerusalem.

"Shultz explained the contents

of the letter to President Assad and during their discussion, President Assad expressed several remarks on the letter," Kourieh added.

He said Shultz urged Syria to study the letter and respond to it.

After the meeting at the downtown Muhajerine presidential palace, Shultz left for the airport and took off for Cairo.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa saw the U.S. secretary of state off. He and U.S. ambassador to Syria William Eagon had attended the session with Assad.

Aides to Shamir, who Shultz met earlier Friday, indicated Shamir opposed key elements of the U.S. document which calls for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and limited Palestinian autonomy.

Earlier Friday, the newspaper

of Syria's ruling Baath Party said Shultz was bent on preserving Western interests in the Middle East rather than seeking peace.

Shamir is expected to give his response to the American proposals when he visits Washington March 14-16 for talks with Reagan and Shultz.

"We believe that things have begun to move," Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, said as he saw Shultz off for Damascus.

"Not that everything that was difficult disappeared," Peres added.

The foreign minister has been far more inclined to accept Shultz's plan than Shamir. The prime minister objects among other things to the U.S. concept of Israel trading Arab land in

(Continued on page 5)

EC to ask U.S. to respect U.N. treaty

PARIS (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) will ask Washington to respect the agreement between the United States and the United Nations with regard to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) observer mission, the French Foreign Ministry said Friday.

A ministry spokesman said the 12 EC countries want to make known their wishes that the United States submit the question of closing the PLO mission to binding arbitration.

The U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in an emergency session Wednesday to order the United States to submit the question to arbitration. Israel cast the only dissenting vote.

Congress passed an "anti-terrorism" law that would force the PLO's U.N. mission to close by March 21. The United Nations and the State Department say that would violate international law and the headquarters agreement that allows all U.N. missions to operate.

The spokesman made his announcement as Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond was meeting with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department.

Thursday night, American U.N. Representative Vernon Walters told a news conference in Marrakech, Morocco, that closing the PLO mission was against international law.

"That is the position of the State Department, and it is also mine," he said.

Just before meeting Kaddoumi, Raimond reiterated before Arab ambassadors to France that Paris favours an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Iraq, Iran slug it out with missile attacks on capitals

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq reported more civilian casualties Friday as they resumed tit-for-tat missile exchanges on each other's capital cities.

Iraq ended a 24-hour lull in the five-day-old "war of the cities" with a missile that Iran said landed with a "huge explosion" in Tehran, killing eight people.

Iran, saying it had now suffered about 80 dead and 200 injured since the missile bombardment began, reported firing two missiles at military centres in Baghdad — its 12th and 13th since Monday.

An Iraqi military spokesman said only one Iranian missile

landed, exploding near a densely-populated suburb and killing or wounding an unspecified number of people.

Baghdad residents said windows more than two kilometres from the impact point were shattered.

About half an hour later, Iraq launched its second missile of the day at Tehran. Iran said the missile, the 27th fired at the city since Monday, injured more civilians and destroyed houses.

The Iranian news agency (IRNA), said police guards had been placed around the Soviet embassy in Tehran and the consulate in the southern city of Esfa-

22 killed in plane crash near Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — A commuter plane on a flight from Nancy to Paris crashed Friday morning near the capital while waiting to land, killing all 22 people aboard, an airline official said.

The plane, a Fairchild 227 Turboprop, went down in a field in Pamfou, near Melun, southeast of Paris shortly before 8 p.m., hitting high tension wires and gouging a huge hole in the plowed land, police said.

The aircraft, owned by Transport Aerien Transregional (TAT), was carrying 19 passengers, including a baby, and three crew members, TAT Commercial Director Patrice Decourt told the AP.

Earlier reports said 21 people were aboard.

The director of the Nancy-Essey airport, Jean-Claude Philippe, said the plane had been circling the Melun area in the Seine-et-Marne region, about 40 kilometres southeast of Paris waiting for orders to land at Orly airport.

Decourt said the plane was in the holding pattern for six to

seven minutes after the 50-minute flight from Nancy, then "plunged very rapidly" to the ground.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. Police and rescue workers were searching the area for the aircraft's black box.

There was snow and freezing temperatures in the region at the time of the accident.

"There is no hope of finding any survivors. The plane literally disintegrated. The cause of the crash is not clear but it is true that the plane cut through high-tension cables as it came down," a

police spokesman told Reuters. The spokesman said there were three crew members and 19 passengers on board the Fokker-27. TAT had not yet released a passenger list but most of the dead were expected to be French.

Witnesses said the crash, about two kilometres from the village of Machault, east of Fontainebleau, had carved a crater in a ploughed field and fragments of the plane were still hanging from the fires.

About 200 firemen and gendarmes had sealed off the area and were looking for the aircraft's black box flight recorder.

Ershad party wins landslide in controversial elections

DHAKA (Agencies) — President Hossain Mohammad Ershad strengthened his hold on Bangladesh Friday with his Jatiya Party heading for a landslide win in elections marred by violence and ballot rigging.

"This has been a mockery of an election and I think the world will recognise that," Reuters quoted one Western diplomat as saying.

Despite the fraud, acknowledged by the government, diplomats said Ershad had emerged stronger against a coalition of opposition parties which boycotted the parliamentary and municipal polls.

Ershad need not hurry to bring the opposition back into the political mainstream, the diplomat quoted by Reuters said. "He is in the ascendancy and in control."

Ershad, a former army general, has ruled this impoverished country of 110 million people since toppling a civilian government in a bloodless 1982 coup.

The 21-party opposition led by the Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) called a general strike to disrupt the poll and urged the country's 46 million electorate not to vote.

Awami leader Sheikh Hasina denounced the poll as a fraud and

vowed to continue an anti-Ershad campaign started last November.

Final turnout figures were not available but the electoral commission said 17 per cent voted in just over half the constituencies of the 300-seat parliament.

Ballot counting continued Friday. Of 299 seats contested, Jatiya candidates had won 176, including 18 races in which Jatiya candidates ran unopposed and won by default. One race was postponed as one of the candidates for the seat was killed.

The combined opposition parties, a coalition of 73 minor parties, gained nine seats, according to election commission figures. Two other small parties had one seat each, and independents gained seven.

Ershad in December dissolved parliament, necessitating the new elections, in a move widely seen as an attempt to undermine the opposition campaign.

An opposition-led strike virtually shut down the capital on election day and the previous day.

Visits to polling stations in and around Dhaka by foreign reporters turned up signs of a low turnout and vote tampering, the AP said.

4 more kidnapped in 2 separate incidents in Beirut, S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Four people — a British relief worker, his Syrian colleague, an Iranian and a Lebanese — were kidnapped in 2 separate incidents over the last 3 days in west Beirut and South Lebanon, police, witnesses and the relief organisation reported Friday.

Oxfam relief organisation spokesman John Magrath said in Oxford, west of London, that the organisation's Middle East Coordinator, Peter Coleridge, 44, and its Lebanese representative, Omar Traboulsi, were seized by unidentified kidnappers Thursday night in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Meanwhile four unidentified gunmen have kidnapped an Iranian and a Lebanese on the airport road in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Police and witnesses said the gunmen, travelling in a green Mercedes sedan without number plates, intercepted a taxi carrying Iranian Adel Irani, 50, and the unidentified Lebanese shortly after they arrived from Kuwait Wednesday.

The driver of the taxi, Toufic Shai, told Reuters the gunmen forced the two into their car with their luggage and sped towards the Shiite Muslim southern suburbs of Beirut.

The driver said the Iranian told the kidnappers his nationality and said he was a personal acquaintance of Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

"They did not listen to him, just said 'you come with us' and took him and his friend," Shai said. He said the two had asked him to drive them to Christian east Beirut.

Iranian embassy officials were not available for comment.

It was the first abduction of an Iranian in the western sector of the Lebanese capital, scene of a wave of kidnappings of foreigners over the past three years.

Pro-Iranian militants are believed to be behind most of the abductions.

At least 26 foreigners are missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon, including three Iranians who went missing at a Falangist Lebanese Forces militia checkpoint north of Beirut in 1982.

The three were Charge d'Affaires Hossein Musavi, Revolutionary Guards official Ahmad Mostafaei, and photographer Kazem Akhavan, who worked for the Iranian News Agency (IRNA).

Oxfam's Magrath said it was not clear whether the pair had since been released.

He said: "We've had conflicting reports as to whether they are still being held or not."

The two men went to Sidon

Thursday to visit relief groups supported by Oxfam, a British charity that aids refugees and poor people in several countries.

Magrath said he could not give any other details of the abduction, which came the day after pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militants released a West German captive, Ralph Schray, 30, in Beirut five weeks after he was kidnapped.

"We have ideas about who might have done it, but we don't want to speculate," Magrath said.

"The people we work with on the ground have told us not to panic. We know they're making contacts in Sidon to find out exactly what's happened and see that Peter and Omar are released."

Nisrine Rawda, an official with Oxfam in west Beirut said both Coleridge and Traboulsi were supposed to return to the Muslim sector of the capital Friday but had failed to do so.

She said Coleridge arrived in Beirut last week on his first visit to Beirut for three years, to check on the organisation's relief work in Lebanon.

Colleagues of Coleridge, who speaks fluent Arabic, said they visited the apartment where he was to have gone but found it empty.

Police said Mustafa Saad, head of the Muslim Popular Liberation Army, which controls security in Sidon, was told of the men's disappearance and efforts were

being made to locate them.

"Hopeful signs that Waite is alive"

In a separate development Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie said Friday there are hopeful signs that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared in Beirut more than a year ago, is still alive.

"I am more hopeful because the sort of people to whom we are speaking are more eager to speak — are ready to speak — and have this common assurance that he is still alive," Dr. Runcie told reporters.

Waite, a special representative of the archbishop, disappeared in Beirut in January last year while trying to secure the release of hostages.

"There are developments all the time in terms of opportunities offered to us for conversations with various bodies that I can't name," said Runcie, who is touring Australia.

Runcie, spiritual leader of 70 million Anglicans, said there were no concrete new developments in the short term through his contacts with political and religious leaders.

He also reiterated that his concern for Waite was spiritual and humanitarian. "We are not into doing deals," he stated.

"But it's true to say that I'm more hopeful than I was or have been in the past about the ultimate outcome."

UNRWA weighing action in S. Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, UNRWA, is considering whether to resume activities in southern Lebanon following the release of two of its officials who were kidnapped, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

He denied a published report that the agency had already resumed full operations.

Asked about the kidnapping of American Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, the chief of a U.N. military observer group in the area, the spokesman said there was reason to believe he was still in southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile UNRWA's Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli has told an informal meeting of governments in Vienna that new kinds of responses are needed to the current unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

4 Libyan jets return from Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Four Libyan Air Force pilots who landed their planes in Egypt flew home Thursday, the National Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

MENA, quoting the Libyan News Agency JANA in a highly unusual move, reported Libya's version — that the four Soviet-made MiG-23 fighters landed at a base in the Western desert Tuesday because they were running out of fuel.

In the absence of a government

statement, MENA's report amounted to Egyptian confirmation that the planes had returned to Libya and tacit rejection of local newspaper reports that the pilots had defected.

Five Libyan servicemen were given political asylum in Egypt in three defections last year.

The two countries have no relations and are bitter rivals in Arab politics. They fought a border war 11 years ago, and Egypt's desert frontier with Libya remains heavily defended.

MENA reported the return of the four Libyans several hours after JANA said they had left.

JANA quoted a Libyan Air Force spokesman as saying bad weather prevented the planes, flying from a base named Sibha, from landing at two other Libyan bases Tuesday.

The spokesman said they were running out of fuel and asked permission to land at an Egyptian base near the Libyan border, where they were well-treated.

Israeli settlers attack journalists in Hebron

HEBRON, West Bank (R) — Reuter photographer Jim Hollander and his wife Rina Castellano, a photographer on assignment for Time magazine, were attacked by Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron Thursday.

Witnesses said two male settlers struck Hollander and Castellano with their own cameras.

Castellano, 35, fell to the ground. Blood poured from her head, and she received five stitches at a Jerusalem hospital. One

settler hit Hollander in the face, injuring his lip and smashing his glasses.

The couple were among several photographers in the town to take pictures of a Jewish festival parade when they learned a Jewish Hebron resident, 16-year-old Aharon Peretz, had been stabbed and wounded by a Palestinian in the old city of Hebron.

Forty Jewish families live under constant military guard in

the ancient city.

Photographer Eli Herskovits said photographers rushed to a building where the injured boy was being treated. A doctor and an ambulance were already there, and photographers stood outside to take pictures, he said.

"We were just taking pictures of a little Jewish girl in a purim (festival) costume and a soldier when a bearded guy came up and smashed my camera into my face," said Hollander, 38, Reuter chief photographer in Israel.

Qadhafi knocks down prison gate, frees 400 inmates

ROME (AP) — As thousands of Libyans cheered, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, driving a bulldozer, Thursday knocked down the gate of a Tripoli prison, a Western diplomat said.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) reported that 400 inmates were freed from the prison after Qadhafi "demolished" it with the bulldozer. The agency, monitored in Rome, said the ex-prisoners chanted slogans hailing "the festival of liberty."

The diplomat, who said he witnessed the event, reported that several dozen handcuffed men who appeared to be prisoners came pouring out of the prison to be joyously greeted by relatives.

Thousands of people attended the event, estimated at one of Tripoli's biggest rallies in recent years, according to the diplomat who was reached by telephone by the Associated Press in Rome.

In a speech Wednesday, Qadhafi said he was releasing all Libyan prisoners except those accused of plotting with foreign countries, and promising to destroy the prison, invited prisoners' relatives to watch the prison be demolished.

The diplomat said about 50 other people, who appeared to be Qadhafi aides, also drove bulldozers during the rally to knock down a wall surrounding the prison.

In a half-hour-long speech to the crowd, Qadhafi praised his own record as leader of the 1969 revolution that brought him to power, according to the diplomat, a Western European who spoke on the condition he not be identified by name.

Qadhafi, who has on occasion sported colourful capes or jump suits in public appearances, wore a military jacket and slacks as he drove the bulldozer, the diplomat said.

17 die in Egypt road accident

CAIRO (R) — Seventeen people, all from one family, were killed when a truck smashed into their overcrowded minibus in south Egypt, a Cairo newspaper said Friday.

The accident near Assiut, 380 kilometres south of Cairo, occurred while the victims were heading home Thursday from a wedding party, the daily Al Ahram said.

Three other members of the family were injured.

Gulf Palestinians rally to help uprising

KUWAIT (R) — A surge of cash donations from Palestinians in the Gulf Arab states is helping to maintain the three-month-old uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinians say.

Donations to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), glittering fund-raising dinners and family and village charities have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in humanitarian aid for compatriots in the occupied territories.

Kuwait's Palestinian elite paid 25 dinars (\$90) a plate last month for dinner at a five-star hotel which grossed more than \$700,000.

A Palestinian car dealer put a 1930 Ford on the auction block. Readers of Kuwait's Al Watan newspaper sent it nearly \$100,000 for a special fund. Firms sponsored austerity lunches and asked their employees to give up a day's salary.

"People are taking the initiative to support injured families," said Anis Qassim, a prominent Palestinian lawyer in Kuwait, where the 300,000-strong Palestinian community is the largest outside Lebanon and Jordan. "There are more contributions than ever before."

In quieter times, Gulf Palestinians remit hard currency to families under Israeli occupation

to help them cope with unemployment and low wages. But since Palestinian youth began their protests against Israeli rule last December, Palestinian communities from Kuwait to Jeddah have rushed to help families of the dead and wounded.

Palestinian officials say the funds have compensated for the poor response of most Arab governments. Only Kuwait and Iraq have given money to the uprising. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told a news conference last month.

Israel says 79 Palestinians have so far been killed and hundreds wounded by its troops, but the PLO puts the toll much higher.

The casualties have strained health and welfare services and left hundreds of families without a breadwinner.

"Just about every Palestinian has been directly affected by what is happening in their country," said Shafiq Ghabra, a Kuwaiti university professor of Palestinian origin. "Everyone knows a martyr, maybe a cousin or nephew. Relatives are dying."

The PLO has set up a special bank account in Tunis for direct donations. But the biggest source of funds is probably professional, family and village charities that existed before the uprising and have now acquired new vigour. "Palestinians from a given vil-

lage tend to stick together, even after they've lived in exile for 30 or more years," said Ghabra. "Many villages have their own funds to support people and projects in the occupied territories."

Israel has clamped a \$1,400 per person ceiling on the amount of hard currency Palestinians can bring back to the occupied territories. Palestinian officials say. But this can be circumvented through smuggling and bank transfers.

"Nothing can stop us from sending money into the occupied territories," said Amr Battash, head of Kuwait's PLO mission. The PLO Executive Committee has called on every Palestinian family abroad to adopt one inside the territories. Battash said the response in Kuwait has been good.

"Palestinians in Kuwait are among the most active supporters of the uprising," he told Reuters, citing their relative wealth and sophistication, close family ties and encouragement from the government.

As in other Gulf states, a committee has been set up to oversee contributions comprising local representatives of the various Palestinian guerrilla factions, the Palestine National Council, and social and professional associations.

U.S. sailors ride the tide of anxiety in Gulf

ABOARD THE USS SIMPSON IN THE GULF (R) — Sailors aboard U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf are riding a tide of anxiety as they wait for the escalating "war of the cities" between Iran and Iraq to spill back into this strategic waterway.

The current lull in the "tanker war" has lasted more than three weeks, but senior American officers fear renewed attacks on merchant shipping could break out at any moment.

"These are two belligerents who are fighting a fierce battle, and there's no reason to believe they'll confine themselves to one area (of attack)," said Captain Donald Dyer, commodore of a surface squadron in the Gulf.

Iran and Iraq have concentrated in recent days on bombard-

ing each other's capitals with missiles and rockets, allowing commercial vessels to transit the Gulf unmolested. No tanker has been hit by either side since Feb. 12.

Nevertheless, some navy officers are now concerned that both sides, after getting a taste of fierce missile attacks on land, may be more apt to unleash such weapons on the high seas.

U.S. officers believe the "war of the cities" is merely a temporary change of tactics, and they vow not to let down their guard. The guided-missile frigate USS Simpson maintained a heightened state of alert Thursday as it steamed south in the central

Gulf, providing an escort for the Gas Queen, a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker laden with liquid gas.

Sailors used night-vision binoculars to scan the horizon for tell-tale signs of Iranian mines that can rip through a ship's hull.

Even a harmless fishing dhow came under close scrutiny, with crewmen taking aim with mounted machineguns as it darted within 200 yards of the rusty, 64,000-tonne tanker. The dhow, wooden boat that dates back to Biblical times, finally sailed away without incident.

"It looks like a legitimate fishing expedition, but you never know when one of these will turn out to have a hostile intent," said Lieutenant Commander Richard Rush, the Simpson's executive officer.

American sailors have been ordered to keep close watch on the fishing boats that ply the Gulf out of concern that Iran's Revolutionary Guards may use them for suicide missions.

In the warship's dimly-lit Combat Information Centre, specialists stared at radar screens in an effort to pinpoint potential threats to the convoy, the 15th of the year and the 37th since the escort operation began last July.

The Simpson's officers said they had become increasingly concerned about the tactics of Iraqi fighter pilots, who have frequently fired at radar blips without positively identifying

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
PROGRAMME ONE	06:00 News 06:30 Here's Humph
15:00 News	06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News
15:15 Programme review	07:00 World News 07:00 24 Hours
15:30 Children's programme	07:15 News Summary 07:30 Personal View
15:45 The Bunty	07:45 News Summary 07:50 News
16:00 Eureka	08:00 World News 08:00 News
16:15 How Things Work	08:15 Jolly Good Show 11:00 World
16:30 Trips	08:30 Meridian 09:00 World News
16:45 Arabesque	08:45 News Summary 09:00 News
16:55 Message from Iraq	09:15 News Summary 09:30 News
17:05 Family programme	09:45 News Summary 09:50 News
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HOME BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a law on practising veterinary medicine. The law sets out the bases governing practising this profession and specifications for breeding and slaughtering poultry.

TOURISM: Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni met here Thursday with Cypriot Ambassador Nicolas Makris to discuss Jordanian-Cypriot cooperation in tourism. Cyprus had earlier presented the ministry with a draft agreement on such a cooperation which was reviewed at the meeting. It calls for exchanging expertise in hotel management and tourist affairs.

EMBEZZLEMENT: The military court has sentenced Saadi Abdullah Hassan to two years imprisonment and the payment of JD 300 for embezzlement of public funds. The sentence was endorsed by the military governor.

KHASAWNEH: Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday received the newly appointed Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic and discussed with him bilateral relations in the information field.

EDUCATION: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thougoun Hindawi Thursday received the Omani ambassador to Jordan who conveyed to Hindawi a message from the Omani Education Minister dealing with bilateral relations.

WORLD WALKER: Baghdad Mayor Khalid Abdul Munim Rashid Friday received the Jordanian traveller, Walid Amareh, now in Baghdad as part of his trip around the world, which will be completed in 1995 when he arrives in Sydney.

ROADS CLOSED: Public Security Department (PSD) Friday said that the Athrub Road, linking Maan with Shobak is closed for traffic, because of the rising water level and cautioned people against using that road. The department advised people to use Ghreiz-Maan or Al Qa'a-Eil Road instead. The PSD also said that the Rumeibah-Um Nusseir Al Qanater road is also closed because of the culverts landslides.

NEW BOARD: A new administrative board has been elected for the Jordanian-Yugoslav Friendship Society, according to a report Friday in the Al Dustour Arabic daily. The new board comprises: Hani Al Dahly (president), Tayseer Al Hemei (vice-president), Akef Nweiran (secretary), Hussein Al Es'i (treasurer) with Dr. Walid Maraga, Dr. Hisham Ershadat, Hafez Malak, Emile Koro, Issa Jarajeh, Tayseer Al Nahar and Fawzi Gharaibeh as members.

WOMEN'S DAY: The Jordanian Women's Federation (JWF) has sent a cable to Iraqi Women's Federation on the Iraqi Women's Day Friday. The JWF praised the Iraqi women for their courageous stand and their sacrifices to defend their homeland.

UTAH CONFERENCE: Mu'ta University will take part in the Second Linguistics Conference due to open at Utah University in the United States on March 14. The two-day conference will be attended by Dr. Adel Tweisi from the Humanities Faculty.

AMBULANCES: The International Committee of the Red Cross has decided to offer four ambulances to the Red Crescent Societies of Nabulus, and Gaza in the occupied territories, according to the president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in Jordan Ahmad Abu Qoura. Abu Qoura said that the four vehicles will be handed over to the concerned societies shortly to help them carry out humanitarian services in the two regions.

MODEL VILLAGE: The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund QAF will on Saturday embark on the first phase of a model village at Malih in Madaba district. The QAF's programme director said that the project first entails planting large number of trees alongside the roads, a process in which the local inhabitants will be involved. The QAF, he said, will later expand its social services programmes in Malih in cooperation with local societies and institutions.

SYMPOSIUM: The Ministry of Agriculture will be taking part in a symposium related to agricultural policies in Arab countries which will be held in Kuwait on March 27. The four-day symposium is sponsored by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development in cooperation with the World Bank's Economic Development Institute and the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. The Ministry Secretary General Dr. Salem Al Lawzi will represent Jordan at this symposium.

Fayez to hold talks with Spanish parliament speaker

AMMAN (Petra) — (J.T.) — Speaker of the Spanish Parliament Felix Pons Saturday holds meetings with speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez and will visit the University of Jordan and other places of interest in Amman.

Pons who arrived Thursday on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Fayez was accompanied by the Jordanian speaker Friday on a visit to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra.

Upon his arrival here Pons reiterated his country's support for an international Middle East peace conference, to help end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said Spain is deeply interested in Middle East developments, and is linked by strong ties with the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular.

Pons said: "Spain has been exerting serious and relentless efforts within the European Community to help bring about peace to the Middle East through an international conference."

Upon arrival here, Pons was greeted by Fayez and parliament members as well as Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod.

Pons is accompanied by a six-member parliamentary delegation on his week long visit to Jordan.

Fayez meets envoys

Fayez Thursday received Czechoslovak Charge d'Affaires Emil Hruscky, and Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic separately and reviewed with them scopes of cooperation.



Akef Al Fayez

Fayez also received the United Nations Development Programme Representative Ali Attika, who briefed him on the programme currently carried out by the United Nations in Jordan.

Jordan to host conference on kidney diseases

AMMAN (J.T.+Petra) — Some 100 Arab doctors, as well as prominent nephrologists from the United States, Britain and Europe, will meet here on Oct. 12 for the first conference of the Arab Society of Nephrologists, to discuss medical issues related to kidney diseases and transplantation in the Arab World.

Secretary of the Jordanian Society of Nephrologists (JSN), Dr. Mohammad Al Lawzi, said that during the three-day conference, participants will discuss scientific cooperation, exchange views and researches in this field.

Dr. Lawzi said Arab specialists will discuss the latest medical and scientific advancements and will exchange views and experiences with their Jordanian colleagues.

Participants will also consider effective ways for improving the efficiency and standard of the nephrology in the Arab World.

The establishment of a pan-Arab nephrology society will also be officially announced during the conference, Dr. Lawzi added.

The treatment of kidney diseases has advanced in Jordan, Dr. Lawzi said.

Jordan has led the Arab World in kidney transplantation. The first kidney transplantation operation was conducted in 1972.

The conference will be hosted by JSN.

Egyptian agricultural team in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — An Egyptian agricultural delegation arrived here Friday on a four-day visit to Jordan during which they will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company.

The talks will deal with preparations for a full study on the setting up of a joint company for the production of seeds and fruit saplings.

During the visit the two sides will draft a charter for the establishment of this company, which will produce seeds, crops and fruit saplings.

The setting up of this company is part of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee resolutions.

Abu Ragheb re-elected as JCA chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ali Abu Al Ragheb was re-elected for another two-years as president of the Jordan Contractors Association (JCA) Friday by acclamation, following the withdrawal of Radwan Hajjar, who was the only other contestant for the post of President.

Elections of the JCA Administrative Committee will take place at a later time to be set next Friday, which the JCA General Assembly meets to discuss the 1987 financial and administrative reports, the estimated 1988 budget.

The assembly will also select an auditor and a committee for supervising the elections.

Three people are contesting for the post of vice-president while 23 others are contesting for the JCA Administrative Committee.

The JCA General Assembly comprises 650 members.

Lower House meets Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will convene on Monday, according to an announcement made by House Speaker Akef Al Fayez.

The House's Financial Committee Thursday continued discussion of the audit bureau report for 1986. The meeting which was chaired by Mousa Abul Ragheb was attended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and

the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber.

Meanwhile, the Legal Committee of the Upper House of Parliament held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi to discuss a new civil courts law.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh and Minister of Justice Riad Shaka'a were present at the meeting.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan (right) holds talks with U.N. Development Programme Representative Ali Attika in Amman Thursday (Petra photo).

UNDP to finance 14 training courses for TCC employees

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will finance 14 training programmes for Jordanian employees at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), and the training courses will be held in foreign countries, according to a statement issued Thursday.

The statement, which followed a meeting between Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and

UNDP representative in Amman Ali Attika, said that the trainees will be sent to Japan, Denmark and Holland and their training will take place in 1988 and 1989.

Haj Hassan and Attika discussed projects which the TCC plans to carry out in Jordan and programmes for training post office workers and TCC technicians.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications were present at the meeting.



Civil Registration and Passports Department (CRPD) Director Issa Omari meets heads of various departments in Amman Thursday (Petra photo).

Passport department plans to expand buildings, facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Registration and Passports Department (RPD) Director Issa Omari said Thursday that plans are being made for expanding his department's buildings and facilities to cope with the increasing pressure of work.

Efficient and experienced employees are being recruited for the work at this department, Omari said at a meeting with the heads of various departments.

Omari said that a plan of action should be drawn up to meet the

expected increase in the volume of work during the coming summer, when Jordan is flooded by expatriates spending holidays, or students seeking to travel for education.

"The work volume is also expected to increase as more citizens will be renewing their family registration books issued in 1977 and have now expired," Omari said.

Heads of branches in various provinces were also present at the meeting.

Tomato processing date extended

KARAK (Petra) — A government decision to extend the operations of the tomato processing plant at Ghor Al Safi in the southern Jordan Valley until March 15, has greatly helped local farmers market their products.

The decision has also helped stabilise the price of tomatoes in general and encouraged producers, according to Ghor Al Safi marketing centre director Radi Tarawneh.

Tarawneh said that farmers fol-

lowing the government-set agricultural patterns system, have been turning in more and more quantities of tomatoes for the market and for processing at the plant, benefiting from the extension period.

The centre has been receiving nearly 90 tonnes of tomatoes daily from local producers this season, Tarawneh noted.

He said that the government had decided on the extension to enable farmers to sell more of their produce and make profit.

Jordanian housing exhibition opens for expatriates in UAE

ABU DHABI (Petra) — A Jordanian housing exhibition has opened in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), to highlight Jordanian housing projects and help Jordanian expatriates own homes in their home country.

The exhibition, the second of its kind to open in UAE, where nearly 50,000 Jordanians reside, offers full information about housing projects carried out by the Housing Corporation and private housing and construction companies in the Kingdom.

Jordanian Ambassador to the UAE Zuhair Sakkiha, who opened the exhibition here Thursday, said that expatriates will have the opportunity to own their homes without travelling to Jordan and without paying down-payment on their units.

Oman Bank here, in cooperation with the Housing Bank in Jordan have made arrangements to receive monthly payment by the expatriates who want to buy their own homes in the Kingdom.

At least 35 Jordanian construc-

tion and investment companies, along with representatives of the Housing Corporation, the Housing Bank, the Urban Development Department and the Ministry of Tourism in Jordan, are involved in the exhibition, providing home designs, housing units plans and other posters, illustrations, drawings and information about housing in general.

The first exhibition was held in Dubai last week.

Ureikat returns

Meanwhile, Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat returned to Amman Thursday, following a visit to Saudi Arabia where he inspected the conditions of Jordanian expatriates.

Ureikat said that Jordanian

workers enjoy respect and appreciation of their employers, and are proving superior to other workers in their different field.

The minister said he met with representatives of these expatriates and discussed a number of matters related to investment and development projects in Jordan.

Talks also covered the establishment of the projected holding company, in implementation of resolutions passed by the Jordanian expatriates conference in Amman last July.

The housing bank chairman of the board and Director-General Zuhair Khouri said here Friday that the joint cooperation agreement, signed between the Housing Bank and Oman Bank, was within the framework of cooperation between Arab financial institutions and reflected the contributions of these institutions to development projects in the Arab World.

Mr. Khouri's remarks were carried Friday by UAE daily newspapers on the occasion of the Jordanian Housing Exhibi-

tion.

"This housing event," he said, "reflects the cooperation of the public and private sectors, in order to enable Jordanian expatriates own housing units in Jordan without downpayment."

He expressed hope that the cooperation agreement with Oman Bank will extend to other Gulf Arab states to benefit more Jordanian expatriates.

On Thursday, the Jordanian delegation to the housing exhibition met with members of the Jordanian community in the UAE at the Jordanian Expatriates Club.

The club's Chairman, Ahmad Al Omari, said the housing exhibition was "a pioneering step to acquaint Jordanian expatriates with housing projects and opportunities in Jordan."

A number of Jordanian investors, taking part in the housing exhibition, donated funds to the club to support its projects, which include the setting up of a kindergarten and a school for Jordanian children in UAE.

Accidents claim 27 lives in Balqa during 1987

SALT (Petra) — A total of 955 road accidents occurred within the Balqa governorate during the past year, causing the death of 27 persons and the injury of 685 others, according to the director of Police Department in Salt, Colonel Fathi Hmoud.

Hmoud said his department was undertaking programmes for orienting the public on safe driving, and bolstering cooperation between the police and members of the public in reducing road accidents.

Hmoud also said that training course for the friends of the police will continue in 1988. Several training courses were held last year.

Also in Salt, the local authorities said that they destroyed unspecified quantities of food found to be unfit for human consumption.

Police sources said the food was seized during tours of food stores and shops by public safety teams.

Haj Hassan presides over ARC board meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport and Communications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who is also chairman of the board of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC), Thursday presided over the board meeting and discussed plans for transporting some 3,000 tonnes of phosphate by train from Al Hassa to Aqaba.

The board also looked into plans for renovating the railroad, to be carried out in three stages, the first of which covers 64.5 kilometres and has been completed.

The second stage, which covers

Khayyat in Cairo for Islamic conference

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has arrived in Cairo to take part in an international Islamic conference.

The conference is scheduled to discuss subjects related to Islam, propagation of Islam, challenges facing the Arab and Islamic countries, and above all Israel's inhuman practices against the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Also on the agenda is the situation in mosques around the world, action in the face of challenges to the Islamic faith and other related topics.

Twenty Arab and Islamic countries are represented at the meeting which is expected to last five days.

Khayyat is accompanied by a two-member delegation to the Cairo meetings.



Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat

72 managers complete 3-week training

AMMAN (USIA) — Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Salem Al Lawzi has awarded certificates for completing management skills training to 72 managers at a luncheon in their honour on Feb. 28.

Each manager attended three one-week courses that focused on the individual manager, the management team, and the total organisation. William Berg, a management training consultant, conducted the training which was financed under the Highland Agriculture Development Project by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In the first training cycle, managers learned to identify their own management styles, explored other methods, and made plans for improving their effectiveness. They studied group dynamics, motivation, and management by objectives.

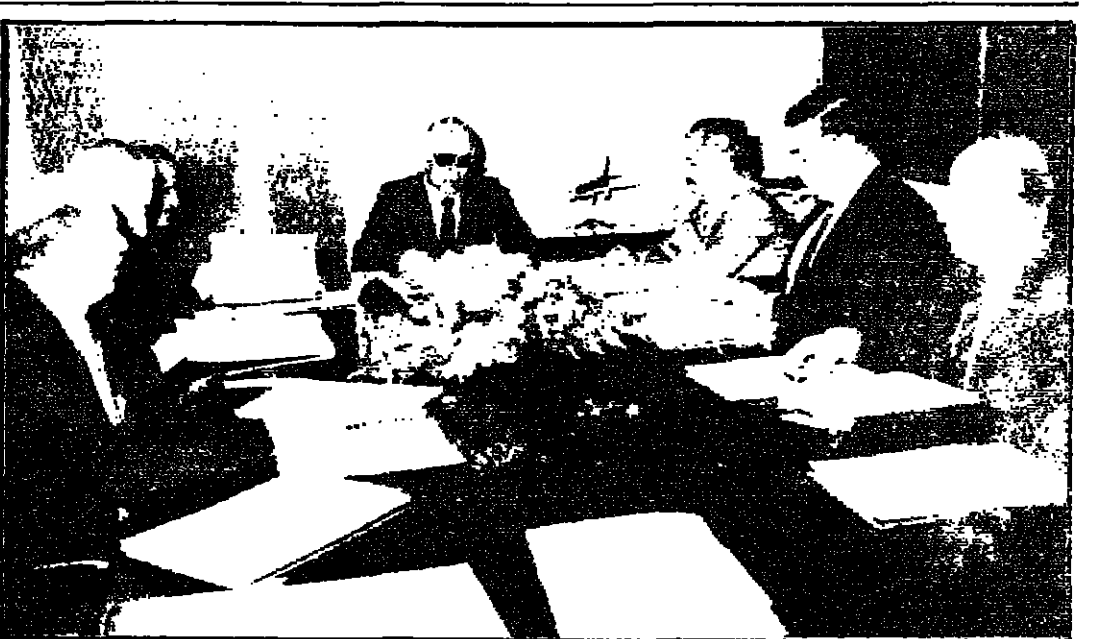
The second training cycle focused on the management team and methods to increase its effectiveness. Managers applied the attributes of excellence of highly successful companies and considered changes that could make them more effective.

The final training cycle examined organisational performance in terms of Jordan's overall economic, social, and political

environment. Managers discussed the ministry's role in the larger development programme of the government of Jordan, and considered how best the ministry might achieve its goals.

Currently, a small task force of selected managers is developing an organisational statement for the ministry. This statement will set forth the ministry's priority action plan for the next several years as well as describe the change that will be made in the ministry to facilitate accomplishment of its programme.

This organisational statement will be completed by mid-May and put into operation by early summer.



Transport and Communications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan Thursday presides over the board meeting of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (Petra photo).

some 116.4 kilometres, is under construction.

The third stage, which covers

84 kilometres will be carried out at a later date.

The council also reviewed the

corporations' budget for 1988 and discussed the proposed organisational chart.

Loose dogs — a menace in Abdoun

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Residents of the posh area of Abdoun should think twice before venturing out of their homes unarmed, against a possible attack by one of several unleashed German shepherds, occasionally seen loose in the area.

This state of affairs has developed into a state of near panic following a recent incident when a huge German shepherd went berserk, attacked and killed one of two house pets who were being walked on a lead by their owner.

The owner, Ms. Annelie Nassar, tells of the "crime" with shock and bitterness. "It was like a nightmare. I was walking my two puppies in the neighbourhood when this huge dog stood in front of us and charged us. I tried to save both my dogs, but by the time I pulled the leash of the first

pet, the German shepherd had pierced its teeth into the other killing it instantly," Sam, the dog, was eight years when he was killed.

It was not a dog, Ms. Nassar said of the "assailant" animal; "it was a real monster. I am glad my child was not with me when the incident occurred because he would have been mortally hurt should he have tried to save the pets."

"I was shocked by the immediate impact. I wanted to take the carcass of my little dog, which was carried by the German shepherd into what I later came to know was its owner's house," Ms. Nassar told the Jordan Times.

"To my surprise, a domestic labourer, working with the family owning the dog, held the carcass in his two hands and put in front of me without saying a word," she said. The owners of the dog

did not even take responsibility for this dog's action.

"This is not all," Ms. Nassar added. Another resident in the same neighbourhood "saw his dog maulled in front of his eyes, then dragged away by the attacker to its home ground. It took the owners three hours to pull the remains of the killed pet from the dog's zone."

"Many people seem to want the meanest, strongest killer dog to guard their property" ignoring the potential dangers posed to their neighbours, passers-by and even their own children, she said.

Ms. Nassar suggests drafting immediate legislation to hold owners of vicious dogs and dangerous house pets fully liable for any such incidents involving their pets.

Veterinarian Nathani Abdullah, who performed a post-mortem on the killed dog, billed the killer dog as a "real trained" pet

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Shamir says NO

HOURS before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in occupied Jerusalem, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced that there will be no settlement with the Arabs except within the context of the Camp David agreements. This statement implies that Israel will reject any ideas by the American secretary on resolving the Middle East issue, and will adhere to its own version of autonomy rule for the Palestinians. This is clearly a sign to the United States, which has embarked on a mission to revive the peace process, that Israel rejects in advance any bid for a lasting and comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such statements are bound to maintain tension in the region and kill any chance for peace which is sought by the Arabs and the world community through an international conference attended by all concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council members. Israel continues to reject bids for swapping land for peace and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. No one can predict the outcome of Shultz's renewed mission in the Middle East, but one can expect no end to Israel's intransigence and aggressive policy in the light of Shamir's latest statement.

Al Dustour: Shultz pursues 'mission'

THERE is no harm in allowing U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to renew his mission in the Middle East although he might be confronted by the same adamant Israeli position and intransigence. Shultz who conducted a first round of talks with leaders of Israel and the Arab World last week, realises for sure that it is Israel which is placing obstacles in the path of his mission by refusing any bid for a lasting peace in the Middle East region. Shultz had heard the views of the Arab leaders about a lasting settlement and there is no doubt he will be given similar views and answers during his new tour. King Hussein who met Shultz in London presented the Arab Nation's views about a settlement and emphasised the Arab countries' demand for an international peace conference to include all concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council's permanent members. The King made it clear that the responsibility for achieving peace lies with the United States, the Soviet Union and the rest of the international community, and that the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should form the basis for any settlement at such conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel goes extreme

AS the world community continues to demand a comprehensive peace for the Middle East, the occupied Arab territories continue to face violence resulting from Israel's oppression and an escalation of the actions of Zionist settlers against the Arab population. Extremist elements in Israel have been encouraged by their government's actions and inhuman treatment of the Arabs, and have been carrying out attacks on the Arabs and terrorist activity within the Arab territory. These extremists believe in terrorism and expansionism as a method in dealing with the Arabs and achieving Zionist objectives. But their action has brought about more criticism to the Shamir government and more splits within the Israeli society. These extremists were instrumental in prompting condemnation of Israel's actions by the international community and world organisations which support the Arab call for an international conference. Shamir who is facing a crisis in Israel has blamed Jordan for the black of progress towards peace. But it is a well-known fact that it is Jordan which is seeking the help of the international community to achieve peace. Shamir's allegations will not help Israel, neither will the terrorist activities enable Israel to impose its will on the Arabs.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Uprising escalates

IT has become clear that the Palestinian uprising is not a temporary event but rather a continued form of struggle by the Arab people living under Israel's occupation. This means that the uprising is expected to continue and escalate in the face of Israel's oppression with the hope of achieving freedom for the Arab inhabitants. In the light of these developments, we hope that the Arab countries will rally to help their brethren who are now shouldering a serious responsibility of liberating Arab land. Needless to say that Jordan's insistence on holding an international conference and its rejection of any bilateral solution for the Arab-Israeli problem has been clearly displaying the Arab Nation's commitment to assist the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their rights. This honourable stand is bound to give momentum to the uprising and enhance all Arab attempts to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their objectives. The Palestinian people have been able to present to the world a true picture of an honourable struggle by offering sacrifice and continuing efforts and the endeavours for liberation. We hope that these efforts will be crowned with success in the end.

Al Dustour: Uprising proves Israel's impotence

THE uprising in the occupied Arab land presented the Israelis with a real challenge, and it seems to have proved Israel's impotence to put down the rebellion and end the violence. Israel's incapability to deal with the situation is being made evident everyday with the escalation of this uprising, and as more people fall martyrs in defence of their land and freedom. This uprising has made Israel understand that its occupation of Arab land is becoming more and more costly and uncomfortable, for the Israeli rulers; and that the Israeli society will be paying the price of the long occupation of Arab land. This very bitter truth has been behind divisions within the Israeli society and its leadership, with no answers in sight. Therefore the continuation of the uprising and the failure of Israel in containing the violence are bound to bring more and more trouble to the Israeli leaders and more embarrassment and insecurity for the Israeli society.

Sudan faces tough choices

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Most roads in Sudan are either unpaved or cracking up. The phone system is prone to chronic breakdowns. Power cuts are frequent and occasionally last for days.

For those lucky enough to own a vehicle, petrol is scarce. During most of January, motorists queued for up to 12 hours to collect a week's ration — four gallons (18 litres).

An acute shortage of foreign currency and import restrictions have helped create one of the world's most elaborate and diversified black markets.

Everyday life in Khartoum reflects Sudan's economic plight and in the south the situation is more critical. More than three million people will need massive aid this year because of drought and a four-year-old war against rebels.

Many ordinary Sudanese blame their hardships on foreign-inspired economic policies. But bankers and Western economists said the government would soon have to take more unpopular decisions to keep the goodwill of creditors.

They said Sudan would again be asked to devalue its currency at a meeting of donors and creditors in Paris in May.

The World Bank-hosted group will also seek further liberalisation of the debt-laden economy and the privatisation or streamlining of unprofitable state enterprises.

"They are not going to get anywhere near commitments for fresh aid unless they make a commitment to a more realistic exchange rate," said one of the economists attached to the embassies of major creditors.

Mahdi willing

Last October Sudan devalued its pound by 44 per cent and raised petrol and sugar prices as part of a reform package agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A wave of protests left at least six people dead and drove up consumer prices and the dollar's value on the black market.

But bankers and economists believe Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government has the political will to risk fresh unrest for the sake of further economic reforms which would bring in much-needed loans and grants.

"The government is very serious about continuing with the reforms it started. It is also will-

ing to adjust the exchange rate but we shall have to see how it copes with the social costs," one economist said.

Since devaluation, the pound's official exchange rate has been 4.5 to the dollar, less than half the black market rate.

Finance Minister Beshir Omar has said talks with an IMF delegation in early February did not cover specific policies on the exchange rate. He said the talks were not aimed at new policies but were rather an assessment of economic performance.

But Omar's statements did little to abate popular fears of what the IMF might have in store.

A host of problems caused by years of mismanagement, wide-scale corruption, a crumbling infrastructure and black marketeering have fuelled fears of foreign economic policies.

Sudan got its first standby credits from the IMF in 1978.

Slogans such as "we shall not be ruled by the IMF" and "down with the IMF and the World Bank" have since been a hallmark of anti-government protests.

Omar was asked recently to comment on opposition claims that he was selling out to the IMF.

"I personally have basic re-

servations about the IMF as a body but there exists a necessity for one to be realistic. It is no use to anybody to have rosy dreams that cannot be applied in reality," he said.

"I shall go along and have no objections if the Sudanese people decide that the fund should go to hell."

Omar said the IMF delegates believed progress had been made in boosting government revenues and cutting spending.

Creditors and aid donors are also encouraged by plans to streamline the state railway authority and Sudan Airways, both greatly overstaffed and deep in the red for years.

The World Bank has agreed to finance a \$70-million railway programme which would double capacity by 1990 but cost hundreds of jobs.

\$12b debt

The government last year turned the national air carrier into a company, with shares due to be offered to the public.

The cautious attempts to slim down bloated state firms have sparked an outcry from the trade unions and opposition parties. But economists said creditors were willing to mobilise some funds to mitigate the social costs

of reforms.

Sudan wants 40 years to repay its foreign debt of nearly \$12 billion, with interest rates frozen at current levels.

Economists and bankers said it owed \$770 million in arrears to the IMF, \$1.9 billion to 126 commercial banks grouped in the so-called "London Club" and about \$2.7 billion to Western government creditors in the Paris Club.

Nearly \$3 billion is owed to the Soviet bloc or the Arab World and the rest to multilateral sources.

Sudan, supposed to pay nearly \$1 billion this fiscal year in principal and interest, has not been able to meet payments fully since the early 1980s.

"I sincerely doubt that any of Sudan's creditors hopes to get all his money back," one banker said.

But he said creditor commercial banks would be prepared to write off the \$1.9 billion if they were to receive a reasonable payment, perhaps as little as \$200 million.

"We are willing to do some very creative thinking on the debt question. But before we do that, we want to be absolutely certain that the country is on a recovery path," the senior diplomat of a major creditor nation said.



And the drought only adds to the country's political and economic problems (File photo)

Panama conflict shows diminished U.S. clout in S. America

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

PANAMA CITY — The conflict between Panama and the United States is the latest example of Washington's limited success in driving defiant Latin American leaders from power.

Panama's Manuel Antonio Noriega, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, Chile's Augusto Pinochet, and Paraguay's Alfredo Stroessner have all defied attempts by President Ronald Reagan's administration to make them yield power.

Fidel Castro remains undisputed ruler of Cuba despite efforts to oust him by successive U.S. administrations, including a U.S.-backed military invasion, an economic blockade, and bizarre CIA assassination plans.

Washington's support for military governments to maintain stability in the region changed in the late 1970s and the United States credits itself with helping to bring about the swing to democracy through the 1980s.

But democracy has made U.S. relations with Latin America more difficult as the new governments broke away from the rigid anti-Communism of their predecessors and sought to assert their independence from Washington.

In Panama, Washington has denied that it encouraged a move last week to oust armed forces chief General Noriega, indicted in U.S. courts for alleged involvement in cocaine trafficking and corruption.

But many Panamanians thought it was more than mere coincidence that figurehead President Eric Arturo Delvalle had talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams before announcing last week he had decided to dismiss Noriega.

U.S. succeeds in Grenada

Delvalle's move misfired. The legislative assembly instead fired him and left the military chief firmly in control.

Latin America's left still portrays the United States as a near-omnipotent octopus, its tentacles reaching into the continent's every nook and cranny.

But U.S. influence has eroded steadily since the days when President Theodore Roosevelt's recipe for dealing with the area was "walk softly and carry a big stick". The Reagan administration, some of its critics say, tends to talk loudly and wield a small stick.

Since Reagan took office in 1981 promising to "make America great again", the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada has been the sole case in which the United States has imposed its will on a country in the Western Hemisphere.

In October, 1983, U.S. marines landed in Grenada to crush a Marxist government which had taken power in a bloody coup. With Grenada virtually undefended, success was a foregone conclusion.

Elsewhere in Latin America, the Reagan administration has relied on military proxy forces and diplomatic, economic and political pressure to try to remove governments it considers unpalatable.

But nine months before the U.S. presidential election, it appears increasingly likely that the chief targets of U.S. ire will still be in office when Reagan retires.

Nicaragua has withstood a trade embargo, political pressure and six years of bloody insurgent war financed by the United States.

Although the economy is under

strain, there is still no sign of the popular uprising against the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) which Washington officials predicted during the first major insurgent offensive in 1983.

In Panama, Noriega continues to enjoy support from the 16,000-strong defence forces, the dominant Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), and wide sectors of the rural poor.

Further south, Latin America's last remaining right-wing military dictators appear to have more to fear from old age than from Washington.

Pinochet and Stroessner, both in their 70s, have paid scant attention to U.S. statements "deploring" that Chile and Paraguay have been bypassed by changes that brought democracy to much of Latin America over the past decade.

The Day On The Gaza

By Mike Maggio

*They were tired.
They had waited twenty years.
Too many houses had fallen
too many olive groves destroyed.
The songs of Fairuz
velled their patient tongues.
The barbed wire fence
encaged the camps
like a prison.*

*That day on the Gaza
the children were playing in the broken gutter.
The men in kulliyas
were waiting restlessly
for their bus to the quarries.
There was a woman in black
squatting on the sidewalk.
She was selling fruits and herbs.
She was washing her wares
in her quiet tears.*

*A young boy picked up an angry stone.
Then the soldiers came
then there was waiting
then the sounds of silence died.*

*Give me a stone.
I don't need no gun.
Guns were made
by the hands of the warden.
Stones were made
by the hand of God.*

*Give me a stone.
I will fill up your sky.
The sky is a place
that has no limits.
Freedom is a tree
that never dies.*

Mike Maggio is an American poet and writer who currently works as the academic director of ELSI, English Language Services International, Amman.

They want recognition

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking political gains in return for allowing Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Palestinian sources say.

On PLO orders, 15 Palestinian leaders boycotted an invitation to meet Shultz on his Middle East peace shuttle this week but efforts continue to arrange talks "if, as expected, he returns to the area later this week."

"Secretary Shultz wants to meet Palestinians because he believes they should be involved in the peace process," U.S. consulate spokesman David Good said after the planned meeting last Friday collapsed.

The official reason for the snub was that new U.S. peace proposals omitted any Palestinian right to self-determination or statehood and ignored the PLO.

Palestinian sources said the proposed talks were effectively vetoed by local underground organisers of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories, in which 79 Palestinians were shot dead by the Israeli army and nearly 1,000 have been injured since December 9.

"The street would not allow it," said Birzeit University professor Sari Nusseibeh, believed to have been on Shultz's unpublished guest list.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has since authorised a group of supporters from the occupied territories to meet Shultz on certain conditions, the sources said.

The group should comprise only those nominated by the PLO, including some hardline leftists, and it should include Palestinians abroad who are members of the Palestine National Council (the PLO's parliament-in-exile), they said.

They named the internal leaders chosen as deposed Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, Gaza lawyer Faez Abu Rahme, the head of the Gaza Red Crescent Society, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, Birzeit University President Gabi Baramaki, West Bank trade union leader Shaher Sa'ad, and Al Quds newspaper editor Mahmoud Abu Zuhri.

The two representatives of the Palestinian diaspora were named as professors Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod, both of whom teach in the United States and are U.S. citizens.

Abdul Shafi and Sa'ad are regarded as hardliners, while Said and Abu Lughod are both members of the PNC.

The list was designed to reassure both West Bank and Gaza street activists wary of a cave-in and Palestinians in the diaspora who fear a U.S.-brokered solution that would ignore the aspirations of Palestinian exiles, the sources said.

They said the PLO would prefer the meeting to take place outside the occupied territories, to underline Palestinian independence from Israel.

U.S. officials would not say how far Shultz was prepared to meet these conditions, but one diplomat said privately that the secretary would not be "jerked around" by the PLO.

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هذه احدى الصور

For that inner glow, try food garnished with gold

By Yoshikazu Iino
Reuter

TOKYO — For those who say Japan is becoming too rich for its own good, here is some more evidence: The latest fad is food garnished with real gold.

Restaurants are sprinkling gold flakes on food or wrapping it in gold leaf to create rare delicacies. Gold omelette, gold rice balls, gold ice cream and even gold curry.

Gold flakes or thin wafers of gold leaf are also being used to brighten up Japan's most celebrated cuisine — you can have gold sushi (raw fish and rice) washed down with gold sake (rice wine).

It is the kind of thing that most appeals to the nouveau riche, and there are lots of them around in Japan these days.

"I eat gold sushi regularly because it looks beautiful and I heard it's good for health," the owner of a building firm said. "Eating it makes me feel satisfied."

Jufan, a Chinese restaurant in western Japan offers longevity noodles made of Korean ginseng soup, noodles and gold flakes at 1,880 yen (\$15) a bowl.

"Gold is good for your health and it gets rid of impurities in your blood," said the restaurant owner.

Doctors are unsure whether eating gold is good or bad for you — the consensus seems to be that it has no particular effect at all.

Gold compounds are used in some modern Western medi-

cines, especially to treat rheumatism and asthma, according to medical texts.

But Tetsu Kariya, a comic writer who likes to introduce new foods in his works, believes that gold has no value either as food or medicine.

8 Kilos Eaten

"Some people have the illusion that the value of food is increased by adding gold to it, because the Japanese traditionally have a longing for gold," he said. "Gold is tasteless in the mouth and gives only an unpleasant sensation on the tongue."

Gold leaf manufacturers are benefiting from the boom.

A maker in Kanazawa north-west of Tokyo, where 98 per cent of Japan's gold leaf is produced, said that in 1987 the company sold more than eight kg of gold flake to be eaten, over 40 per cent more than 1986.

"This fad was initiated by restaurant owners who found out that gold flakes were a convenient way of enhancing the value of their food and drink," one manufacturer said.

"Restaurant owners felt they could draw potential customers' attention at relatively low cost, since gold flakes appear to have more volume than they do actual weight."

At Inaho Sushi, a sushi restaurant in Chiba near Tokyo whose menu includes a wide range of gold-garnished foods, three or four dishes of gold sushi are sold a day, at 5,000 yen (\$40) each, the owner Seichi Ohmura



Satoko Wakebe of Tokyo tries a piece of raw yellow-tail fish garnished with real gold. Adding gold flakes to food is the latest food fad in Japan (Reuter)

said. "Gold flake is so thin, we had problems wrapping the sushi in it when we started in July last year, but we've got the knack now," he said.

The gold leaf usually contains about four per cent silver and 0.6 per cent copper. The presence of copper, which in some compounds can be harmful, is seen as a problem by some experts.

"Even if the amount is small, we cannot neglect the fact there is copper (in the gold flake), so the ministry of health and welfare should consider action," said Keishi Amano, a food hygiene expert at the Tokyo University of Fisheries.

A ministry official said that gold flake was classified as a natural food additive and there were almost no controls over its use.

But Kariya for one thinks the gold-munching craze has gone far enough.

"This boom is stupid and symbolises the stupidity of the Japanese. I want people to stop it right now," he said.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — March 5, 1988

8:30 Married with Children
Where's the Boss?

When the jet-set owner of the shoe store where Al works is in a near-fatal airplane crash, Al decides that it's time to get some recognition from his boss or quit his job.

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film

Sun. — March 6, 1988

8:30 Farrington

Every Time We Say Goodbye

Promotion and transfer to a better posting are at last in view for Harriet, until a senior member of her staff is arrested for espionage.

9:10 A Conductor at Work
Claudio Abbado

One part documentary

This film traces a year in the life of Claudio Abbado, one of the most distinguished conductors of the younger musical generation, showing him at work both in rehearsal and on the concert platform with some of today's most eminent musicians.

10:20 Secret Army

Mon. — March 7, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served
A Personal Problem

9:10 Vanity Fair

10:20 Feature Film
No Greater Gift

This is a story of an intimate friendship between two patients in a hospital. One of them is a boy (Nick) who suffers from a cancerous tumour in the brain, and the other room-mate lives on an artificial kidney apparatus waiting for a donation of a kidney from others.

Tue. — March 8, 1988

8:30 No Place Like Home

9:10 Standby... Light!

Camera! Action!

Special effects are used in films to create illusions. They can be achieved through many means: Eerie lighting, specially made costumes, unusual make-up, and even computer graphics.

10:20 Murder She Wrote
Corned Beef and Canape

11:10 Three's Company

Wed. — March 9, 1988

8:30 Sweet Surrender

9:00 Doc. — Well Being
Getting Into Shape

Does fit mean healthy? If it does, which type of exercise makes us fitter? These are just some of the questions which The Sunday Times Getting in Shape project hoped to answer when it compared the results of aerobic (jogging) versus anaerobic (body-building) exercise.

9:35 Tales of the Unexpected
The Verger

The delightful story of Albert (Richard Briers) and Milly (Patricia Routledge), an elderly couple who have for many years been faithful employees of their local church. When a new priest arrives, he plans radical changes which do not include Albert and Milly. However, losing their job at the church turns out to be a real stroke of luck!

10:20 Nancy Wake

New mini-series

Starring:
Noni Hazelhurst
John Waters
Patrick Ryecart

Nancy Wake was Australian by birth. But she fought side by side with the Maquis to free France from a foreign oppressor. Her love of her adopted country was inspired by marriage. Her love of freedom sprang from first hand experience of Nazi tyranny in Vienna. Now, for the first time ever a television story is told in a



Nancy Wake: Shane Briant stars as Major Hermann Kroll, Wednesdays at 10:20

stirring miniseries which recreates the romance, drama and tragedy of Nancy Wake's wartime exploits.

Thur. — March 10, 1988

8:30 Kate and Allie

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film
Continental Divide

Starring:
John Belushi
Blair Brown

The unlikely romance between John Belushi as a hard-bitten columnist on the Chicago Sunday Times (whose specialty is uncovering local political scandals), and Blair Brown as an ornithologist living in the Rocky Mountains (her specialty is avoiding inquisitive newspapermen) was charted with fair-to-middling results in Continental Divide. The couple meet when a story Belushi is working on about a corrupt alderman gets too hot to handle, and he is sent away from his usual beat to interview bird lady Brown. Despite the clash of their very different personalities and totally opposed environments,

love finds a way.

Fri. — March 11, 1988

8:30 Growing Pains
Broadway Bound

Mike cuts school for a day with his friend Monica, to go to New York and audition for a Broadway Play.

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Some Mothers Do Have Them.

A cake to dream about

Eating what you like without suffering the penalties of clogged arteries and being overweight is drawing ever-nearer to reality. Clive Cookson and Louise Kohse report.

THE ginton's dream — a cream cake containing almost no calories — is coming closer to reality. Recent advances in food technology have produced calorie-free substitutes for fat, flour and sugar, and it should soon be possible to combine them with a drop of artificial flavouring and colour to bake non-fattening cakes, biscuits and bread.

An important goal of research by the international food industry is to reduce the energy content of fattening foods without affecting their taste and appearance. But any radical innovation faces formidable obstacles from regulatory authorities, backed by consumer advocates who are concerned about the long-term health effect of changes in diet.

The two fat substitutes announced within the last year in the U.S. — Simplesse by NutraSweet, a Monsanto subsidiary, and Olestra by Procter and Gamble — have both run into regulatory difficulties.

Simplesse is made by a process called microparticulation, in which natural proteins from milk or egg-white are heated until they coagulate and are then formed into tiny round particles. When mixed with water these tiny beads of protein roll easily over each other, creating the same rich and creamy sensation in the mouth as fat. But Simplesse contains only 15 per cent of the calories found in real fat.

Forbidden goodies such as ice-cream, butter, cheese and creamy salad dressings could be included in a "low-cal" diet if they were made with Simplesse, NutraSweet claims.

Because it contains only natural ingredients which are generally considered safe, the company announced Simplesse in January without submitting it to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval. NutraSweet hoped to beat competitors to market by bypassing the lengthy FDA regulatory process. That turned out to be a big mistake.

FDA commissioner Frank Young angrily threatened to seize any products launched with Simplesse. Within hours, NutraSweet capitulated and submitted Simplesse for review.

Although nutritionists have no evidence that Simplesse is unsafe, some have expressed concern about the effect it and other fat substitutes could have on people's eating habits. For example, if ice-cream contains fewer calories than fruit, will more people choose the less-nutritious ice-cream and miss out on the vitamins and fibre in fruit? However, the impact of Simplesse on diet will be limited by the fact that it breaks down when heated, so it cannot be cooked.

On the other hand, Procter and Gamble's Olestra is heat-stable and therefore has a far wider range of applications. It can be used as a cooking oil for frying, and could replace a large proportion of the undesirable saturated fat in processed foods.

Olestra is a synthetic chemical, known technically as a sucrose polyester, manufactured from sugar and edible oils. Because this type of molecule does not occur in nature, our bodies lack the enzymes to digest it. So, when eaten, Olestra passes straight through the body without being digested. It is a genuinely calorie-free food, unlike Simplesse.

Procter and Gamble petitioned the FDA last May to approve Olestra as a food additive and it has since sought approval in several other countries. The company says: "Its safety has been confirmed by the results of broadly-based scientific studies spanning 20 years of research."

But some consumer groups, such as the U.S. Centre for Science in the Public Interest and the U.K. London Food Commission, have challenged those studies.

In a letter to Frank Young, Michael Jacobson of the Centre for Science in the Public Interest says: "The tests performed on Olestra to date are at best inadequate and more likely indicate that humans consuming the additive would increase their risk of cancer and other health problems."

Jacobson points out that people would eat Olestra in far larger quantities than most other additives. He predicts that Olestra will not win FDA approval for many years, while Simplesse will be on the market "within two years perhaps."

Other food manufacturers are responding with understandable caution. Unilever, the world's largest producer of edible fats, is carrying out long-term health tests with its own sucrose polyester fat substitute, according to the company's spokesman, Michael Haynes. "There are still uncertainties about the long-term effect of sucrose and polyesters on the gastro-intestinal tract," Mr. Haynes says. But if Olestra is approved for human consumption, Unilever could launch a similar product of its own.

Meanwhile, Unilever has quietly introduced new, low-calorie fat substitutes into its Van den Bergh subsidiary in Europe. Delight — marketed only in Britain — contains an emulsion of water and milk proteins which is somewhat similar to Simplesse. Latta — on sale in Britain, Sweden, Germany and The Netherlands — has a different emulsion of water and gelatin.

The Unilever products are less sensitive to heat than Simplesse so they can withstand light cooking. But they can replace only some of the fat in margarine or dairy products, while Simplesse can replace all the fat.

U.S. — Financial Times feature.

CIA-USDA study compares U.S., Soviet diets

By Don Kendall
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA and the Agriculture Department have teamed up to report that the cabbage is king in the Soviet Union, while Americans bow to the tomato.

The study of food supplies in the United States and the Soviet Union says that radish and carrot tops are common fare among Soviet consumers but are rarely found on American grocery lists.

Shultz presents formal peace plan to Arab, Israeli leaders

exchange for peace. Shultz, as he left for Syria, said: "We will keep pushing and working."

Standing on the tarmac of Ben Gurion international airport outside Tel Aviv, he said he hoped for "good fortune and peace" for Israelis and Palestinians.

Shultz met separately with Shamir and Peres, the two main forces in a divided Israeli government.

"Our talks were very friendly, very useful and promising," Shamir said. "I hope, I'm sure, we will continue our efforts for getting peace in the area."

Shultz said he agreed "fully and wholeheartedly with everything the prime minister has said."

A spokesman for Shamir said Shultz "presented the American positions and the prime minister responded and presented Israel's views."

But then, the United States has the sweet potato while the Soviet Union doesn't.

On the other hand, the overall nutrient levels in the two nations are not too far apart. On the average, the Soviet Union supplies about 3,200 calories per day to each citizen, compared with 3,500 for the average American.

Protein availability, at an average of 100 grammes per day, is a tossup. But Americans have more fat and cholesterol in their food supply, while Soviets get more carbohydrates.

Continued from page one

Shultz presents formal peace plan to Arab, Israeli leaders

views." Pazner said they agreed to continue their talks when Shamir visits Washington.

Talks proposed in May

Authoritative Israeli sources said Shultz's peace plan called for an "international meeting" in Geneva in mid-April to launch direct Arab-Israeli talks in early May on an interim agreement for Palestinian "self-rule."

Negotiations for a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict would begin next December.

Bilateral talks would be held in regional committees between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon, the sources said.

The document said participants would be chosen "by mutual consent," a formula apparently allowing Israel to veto members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The sources said key parts of the document remained unacceptable to Shamir, although it did not state who should attend the international opening to peace talks.

The committees would be independent of one another. None would have a veto power over the other, and talks would be based on the principle that no solution could be imposed from outside, the sources quoted the document as saying.

Shamir told Shultz he opposed limiting the "self-rule" period to three years, preferring five years, the sources said.

It was not clear if Shamir had dropped his opposition to fixing a definite date for the start of talks on the "final status" of the occupied areas.

Peres welcomed the U.S. initiative and warned: "Time is passing and becoming short. He who does not want peace can kill it in a very short time."

He who wants to advance (the peace process) can do it in a very short time."

Failure to do so meant elections should be called ahead of their scheduled November date, Peres was quoted as saying. The Shamir aide said election talk should wait until after the prime minister's Washington visit.

Sources close to Peres said they did not believe Shamir could reject the U.S. proposals outright in Washington because of the sensitivity of U.S.-Israeli relations.

They said two options lay before him: Finding a face-saving formula to accept the proposals or calling elections in the hope of gaining time and receiving a clear mandate for his views.

Peres said the U.S. initiative was passing and becoming short. He who does not want peace can kill it in a very short time."

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The report cautioned that the food use statistics for both countries were derived mathematically from production, exports, imports, year-end inventories and other annual figures.

Differences, similarities

But within those limitations, analysts said the study "reveals some interesting differences and similarities" between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"For instance, sources of food energy differed," the report said.

Cabbage

"Among the Soviet vegetables, cabbage ranked number one," the report said. "Soviet use reached 66 pounds (30 kilos) per capita in 1981, compared with 55 pounds (25 kilos) 16 years earlier. U.S. use stayed at about 10 or 12 pounds (4.5-5.4 kilos)."

Cabbages accounted for 34 per cent of all vegetables used in the Soviet Union in 1981, while providing only 6 per cent of the U.S. vegetable menu.

Tomatoes led the U.S. list, accounting for 24 per cent of all vegetables, while ranking second in the Soviet Union at 28 per cent. Carrots and beets were next

among Soviet vegetables, while lettuce was second in the United States, followed by cucumbers.

The per capita use of foods in nine major categories increased between 1965 and 1981 in the Soviet Union. Those included poultry, eggs, fruit, fish, vegetables, dairy products, vegetables, sugars and sweeteners, and meat.

At the same time, the United States gained in the use of meat, poultry, vegetable fats, and sugars and sweeteners, the report said. Potato and grain use declined in the Soviet Union, while the use of animal fats, eggs, dairy products and potatoes dropped in the United States.

One of the reasons behind huge Soviet grain imports of recent years is a drive by Moscow to increase the production of livestock and poultry to help upgrade the diets of Soviet consumers. The report shows how the situation has changed.

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- d) Very good knowledge of French and English with working knowledge of Arabic;

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Uprising toll mounts; journalists barred

The outbreak came despite a crackdown on press coverage. Israeli officials contend television cameras and still photographers inflame demonstrations.

A tightening of restrictions on press coverage had been expected after Shamir warned he was considering closing occupied zones to journalists.

Reporters used back roads to circumvent the checkpoints which closed the main highways leading from Jerusalem to key West Bank towns such as Ramallah, Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin and Hebron.

In Ramallah, AP correspondent Mary Sedor saw about 300 Arabs waving Palestinian flags as they stormed out of the Jamal Abdul Nasser Mosque throwing stones.

Soldiers responded with tear-

gas, rubber bullets and seven rounds of live ammunition, apparently warning shots fired in the air.

She said demonstrators, many girls only 12 and 13 years old, piled stones inside the mosque. Others set up barricades outside made of twisted metal, overturned garbage cans and barrels.

In Gaza city, demonstrators shouted "we don't want to see Shultz" outside the Al Amari mosque. They threw stones and more than 100 soldiers arrived from two directions in military vehicles to surround the mosque.

Demonstrations were also reported by the Palestine Press Service in the refugee camps of Bureij, Nusseirat and Al Mughazi.

Silk Cut team wins Jerash Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team won the Marriott Jerash Rally for the second year in a row, as His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and co-driver Ali Bilbeisi in car No. 7 led 11 other finishers to capture first position early Friday morning in the rain-soaked event.

Veteran driver Nabil Karam and co-driver Serge Talatinian were making an impressive showing in car No. 4 when electrical problems in the third stage at Um Qantara forced them to drop out of the rally.

The rain-and-wind-swept route produced numerous challenges for the drivers, as car No. 5 became bogged down in mud in the Ibbin Stage No. 7, blocking the route. Other competitors were lined up about 45 minutes, waiting for the path to be cleared. Chief marshal Ziad Loza stopped the rally and cleared the track, then declared the stage cancelled. Dense fog virtually obscured the drivers' vision in the final stages of the rally and the Shueib special stage was also cancelled. However, most of the drivers did not get the news in time and drove through the stage anyway. By the end of Special Stage 5, Prince Abdullah and Ali Bilbeisi, who had been running a close second to Hani Bisharat in car No. 1, took over the lead when Bisharat and co-driver B. Bolton faced mechanical problems and left the field.

After the withdrawal of a third contestant, Issa Al Halabi, Prince Abdullah and Ali Bilbeisi led friendly rivals George Khayyat and co-driver Keith Ferry by 43 seconds. Khayyat and Ferry achieved second position in the rally, a 43-second margin continuing to separate them from the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut winners.

The relentless downpour failed to dampen the spirits of the drivers, as they laughed and joked with one another between stages. Despite the disappointment of their car's mechanical problems, Nabil Karam and Serge Talatinian, along with Amr Bilbeisi, remained on hand throughout the rally to offer encouragement and support to their Royal Jordanian Silk Cut teammates.

The Jerash Rally was the first contest of the season, with nine events remaining in the 1988 Jordan Championship competition. Prince Abdullah aims to regain the Jordan National Champion title, which he earned in 1986, from 1987 title-holder Hani

Bisharat. Nabil Karam, who was second in the 1986 Jordan National Championship and fourth in the 1987 championship is also likely to emerge among the top three finishers in 1988. Despite bad luck at Jerash, Nabil plans to come back with a very strong showing in the Danish Dairy Rally next month.

Karam placed fifth at the Qatar International Rally in 1987. Since his initial foray into rallying in 1981, he has consistently enjoyed a string of top finishes. Mastering tough desert rally conditions has become his forte.

Karam and Prince Abdullah formed the Royal Rally team in 1986, pooling their talents and resources to purchase two Opel Manta 400s. A year later, they expanded their partnership with the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team and were joined by Alia and Amr Bilbeisi.

Amr, who drove car No. 1 of the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team to victory last in Jerash, did not enter this event due to a back problem. However, Amr plans to drive a third RSCC car later this season in competition.

Gallagher International is proud to sponsor the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team and extends hearty congratulations to the team for its very impressive start in the 1988 rally season.

Following are the list of first ten winners of the rally:

1. H.R.H. Prince Abdullah, Ali Bilbeisi, Opel Manta 400;
2. George Khayyat, Keith Ferry, Nissan 240RS;
3. Marouf Abu Samra, Bilal Shkidef Nissan 240RS;
4. Freddie Shamoun, Philip Alam, Seat Ibiza;
5. Mohammad Sbitan, Khader Al Kassir, Nissan 240RS;
6. Sharif Jamil Nasser, Ousama Marrar, Toyota Corolla GT;
7. Aiman Zayed, Mohammad Al Natour, Datsun 210;
8. Mithqal Asfour, Nicola Billeh, Volvo 340 Turbo;
9. Rimon Fleifel, Frederick Fleifel, Toyota Celica GT and
10. Amjad Farrah, Sultan Farrah, Daihatsu Charman



Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team members His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and Nabil Karam confer before the start of the Marriott Jerash Rally (above) and the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team mechanics work on a car during rest stop (below) — photos by Bill Lyons.



New Zealand ousts England in cricket test

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand battered throughout the second day of the third and final test Friday, reaching 451 for five wickets, virtually shutting England out of the game.

A Martin Crowe century and fine contributions by Ken Rutherford and Mark Greatbatch were the highlights of the first innings that rarely scored faster than two runs an over through the

two days. At the close, Rutherford was on 91 and John Bracewell on 43. The crowd was rewarded for its patience by a sparkling unbroken sixth wicket partnership of 115, with 95 runs scored in the last hour when England took its third new ball.

New Zealand had resumed at 192 for three and lost two wickets

for 266 in the day.

England took its second wicket just before tea when Crowe was out lbw to England captain and part-time bowler Mike Gatting for 143. It was his ninth test century.

He put on a record 155 for the fourth wicket with Greatbatch, surpassing by one run the previous New Zealand record against England by John Wright and Jeff Crowe.

Hanika advances to \$100,000 tennis quarter-final

WICHITA, Kansas (R) — Third-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany advanced Thursday to the quarter-final round of the \$100,000 Kansas women's tennis tournament with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Catherine Tanvier of France.

Down 2-5 in the opening set, Hanika, ranked No. 19 in the world, stepped up the pressure to pull out the victory. It was also Hanika's fourth triumph over Tanvier in their last five meetings.

"She was nailing everything and hitting everything 200 miles an hour. Then I put more spin on my serve and put more slice. I put a little more pressure on her and eventually I knew she was going to miss," said Hanika.

When Tanvier started missing, she missed nearly everything. Hanika won 11 of the next 13 games.

In other third round play, sixth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia played a gruelling three-set match with two tiebreakers before prevailing over Iwona Kuczyńska of Poland 6-7 (7-5), 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Junior Teams	Pts	Mids-1 Teams	Pts
Dorma	12	NECC	12
Nash/EBB	8	Danish Dairy	7
Arab Bank	8	Intercon	6
Samar	4	Istiklal	4
Astra	0	EEE	3
Mids-2 Teams	Pts	Senior Teams	Pts
Jor-Exp	10	JWM	12
Marriott	6	France Lait	10
Furukawa	6	La Vache Qui Rit	6
NEP	6	Al Ahlyah	4
GEMT	4	Westinghouse	0

Results of Friday's Games

Juniors		
Nash/EBB 18		Dorma 20
Astra 11		Samar 18
Mids-1		
Danish Dairy 21		Istiklal 13
EEE 7		Intercon 17
Mids-2		
Marriott 35		NEP 42
GEMT 39		Furukawa 33
Seniors		
Al Ahlyah 31		La Vache Qui Rit 37
JWM 49		Westinghouse 44

Sanchez saves Real Madrid

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid once again had the extraordinary goalkeeping instincts and good fortune of Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez to thank for preserving their European Cup hopes Wednesday night.

Sanchez, as he had in the second round first leg match at "home" to holders Porto in Valencia, scored a crucial late goal against Bayern Munich to swing the outstanding quarter-final tie Madrid's way.

The Spanish champions, desperately seeking a seventh triumph in the premier tournament of European club soccer, finished the match in a dance of delight after a 3-2 defeat which leaves them requiring only a 1-0 win in Madrid to reach the last four.

In the three other Champions' Cup ties, Portugal's Benfica —

like Madrid, trying to revive a golden past — beat Belgian champions Anderlecht 2-0, 1986 winners Steaua Bucharest overcame Glasgow Rangers by the same score and PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch champions, forced a 1-1 draw in France against Bordeaux.

Bayern, backed by a capacity 70,000 crowd in Munich's Olympic stadium, had taken advantage of the Spanish champions' mistrust of the icy conditions and swirling snow to storm into a commanding 3-0 lead in their first leg match.

Hans Pflueger, Norbert Eder and Roland Wohlfarth each scored during a 10-minute spell either side of the interval as Madrid's defence hesitated and collapsed.

Bayern, beaten by Portugal's Porto in last year's final after they had eliminated Real Madrid following a stormy semifinal marred by crowd trouble in Spain, appeared to be cruising towards victory.

But then, with only three minutes remaining, Eder misplaced a pass and Emilio Butragueno pounced to score with the speed and economy that has led him to be dubbed 'the jackal' by the Spanish club's fans.

Madrid were revitalised and in the final minute Sanchez scored their second priceless away goal. His free kick from a narrow angle on the left slipped beneath the body of the diving Jean-Marie Pfaff and inside the far post.

Though coach Jupp Heynckes was defiant in defeat, Bayern will know they face an enormous task in surviving in Madrid where home fans will be admitted to a European tie for the first time this season at the second leg.

As punishment for the misbehaviour of their fans at last year's semifinal second leg against Bayern, Madrid were forced to play Napoli behind closed doors and Porto in Valencia earlier this season in the first and second rounds.

With the backing of a capacity 100,000 crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid will be favoured to reach the last four.

There, they are likely to be joined by both Steaua, for whom Victor Piturca and Stefan Iovan scored in a comfortable win.

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Arab Monetary Fund lends Jordan \$8m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) have signed an agreement under which Jordan will obtain a loan of \$8 million to help promote the country's trade exchanges.

The loan, repayable over four years, bears a 4.95 per cent interest in the first year and 5.85 per cent interest in the fourth year, according to an official CBJ statement which followed the signing ceremony.

The agreement, which was signed by Finance Minister Han-

na Odeh and AMF President Abdullah Qweiz, stipulates full drawdown of the loan in one lumpsum and a repayment starting 30 months from that date. Qweiz, who left Thursday at the end of his visit here, said that his talks with Jordanian officials and his meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, gave him a chance to examine Jordan's development programmes.

He said that he briefed Prince Hassan the AMF's programmes and technical and economic assist-

ance to Arab countries.

Qweiz's visit was part of his tour of Arab countries to examine their economic situation and discuss means enhancing AMF's cooperation with Arab states to achieve economic integration within the Arab World.

The AMF plans to increase its activities and its lending to Arab states to help them finance their trade exchanges and achieve this goal, Qweiz added.

His talks with Jordanian officials covered the prospect of setting up an institute on financial and monetary studies to help

promote financial services among the AMF member countries. Jordan holds \$22 million capital in the AMF whose total capital stands at about \$1.178 billion.

The AMF has already offered Jordan 11 training scholarships to enable Jordanian personnel acquire further skills and efficiencies in handling financial and monetary matters.

The AMF has also arranged for 39 trainees from Arab countries to acquire training skills at the CBJ's affiliated institutions in Jordan between 1981 and 1986.

Tax Brief details new Education Tax Law for 1988

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued recently approving the new Education Tax Law for 1988.

According to Tax Brief, a bulletin issued by the Jordanian accounting firm Dajani and Alaeddin, the new law translates as follows:

Article (2) —

An annual tax called (Education Tax) shall be levied and collected either from the owner or the leaseholder at two per cent of the net annual rental value as assessed in accordance with the Municipal Real Estate Tax Law. The owner has the right to collect the portion relating to the rented real estate from the leaseholder.

Article (3) —

A — The following buildings are exempted from the Education Tax:

- 1 — Buildings occupied by His Majesty King Hussein.
- 2 — Buildings occupied by the government or any other official institution, including the Department of Hijazi Railway.
- 3 — Buildings occupied by municipalities.
- 4 — Buildings occupied by religious, charitable, and scientific institutions, hospitals and cultural or sport clubs.
- 5 — Building occupied by employees of foreign countries whether they were diplomatic envoys or not subject to reciprocal treatment.

B — The Council of Ministers may exempt any other building from the Education Tax upon the recommendation of the Minister of Education.

Article (4) —

A — The Education Tax becomes due at the beginning of each financial year and shall be collected in the municipal areas by the official tax collectors to the benefit of a special fund called the Education Tax Fund at the Ministry of Finance.

B — The Ministry of Finance shall deduct 10 per cent of the actual annual collections of the Education Tax as revenue to the Public Treasury.

Article (5) —

If the Education Tax has not been paid during the financial year when it becomes due, an additional amount shall be levied as a penalty at five per cent of the amount due but not to exceed 50 per cent of the original tax. This penalty along with the original tax shall be collectible in accordance with the provisions of the "Law of the Collection of Government Funds" in force.

Article (6) —

The Education Tax shall be spent in accordance with the Education Law in force. This shall be made in accordance with an annual approved budget by the Council of Ministers and all disbursements shall be made as decided by the Minister of Education.

Article (7) —

The (Education Law No. 1) for 1956 and its amendments shall be cancelled.

It is important to mention in this regard that the old (Education Tax Law No. 1) for 1956 levied such tax at three per cent of the net annual rental value.

Israeli economy starts to weaken

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli economy is showing signs of a slowdown which economists link to a 12-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Treasury said tax receipts had declined slightly in the past month and a housing ministry official said there was a decline in the purchase of apartments in Jewish settlements in the occupied areas.

Tourism showed a slight drop since the uprising began but officials said they feared the widely reported violence could keep away large numbers of visitors in future.

Palestinians have held long business strikes in protest against Israeli occupation. Military curfews combined with the strikes kept thousands of Palestinians away from their jobs for weeks, curbing their incomes and spending power.

Slight declines were noted in February in receipts from value added tax (VAT), purchase tax and fuel tax, the three most directly linked to spending, the treasury said.

Officials were reluctant to link the slowdown to the unrest alone. For example, VAT revenue dropped by two to three per cent. Treasury officials said the drop

was affected by the fact that small businesses paid the tax every other month and by bad weather which might have kept shoppers at home.

The most noticeable effect was the drop in sales of houses in Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. A housing ministry official said sales had fallen to half their normal level, from 30 to 15 apartments a month, in the past three months.

The ministry had launched a campaign to attract new settlers to the area by boosting government mortgages, already higher for the occupied areas than for most parts of Israel, he said. New loans of up to \$50,000 would almost meet the cost of an apartment in a West Bank settlement, the official said. About 60,000 Israelis have settled in the West Bank since 1967.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper said the ministry of tourism was trying to persuade the treasury to set up an \$8 million emergency fund to help hotels that might suffer from low occupancy in the coming months.

Withdrawals of foreign funds may bring recession in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — People in other countries have invested \$1.5 trillion in the United States and withdrawals could bring a recession, a former top treasury official said.

C. Fred Bergsten, who now heads the Institute for International Economics, a study group financed largely by the West German Marshall Fund, said the investment by other countries in the United States is in private hands.

"Some of it's in the form of plant and equipment — that's not going to come out rapidly," he told the House Budget Committee. "But close to a trillion dollars of it is liquid, and about half a trillion has come in just the last five years to finance our massive trade deficits."

"On future occasions, if foreigners withdraw money, the effect on interest rates, our economy, the exchange rate, could be much more dramatic," he noted.

It has happened before, he said. "The last time the dollar fell sharply — I happen to remember painfully because I was in the treasury at the time — was in the late 1970s," he added.

He recalled that the United States had to borrow about twice the amount of its trade deficit because foreigners were withdrawing money at the same time.

"If we got anything like that magnitude now, we'd have to find

a way to borrow \$300 billion from foreign officials or somewhere to keep our books in balance," he said. "That could only be done at prices that would bring the whole economy to a shuddering halt."

He said the most enduring legacy of the Reagan administration would be the conversion of the United States from the world's biggest creditor country to the biggest debtor. Current foreign borrowing by the U.S. government is about \$150 billion a year.

"At the end of 1987, our net international debt stood at about \$400 billion, more than the external red ink of the next three largest debtors — Canada, Brazil and Mexico — combined," he said.

"Under the most optimistic adjustment scenario, that number will rise to \$750 billion before it could possibly level off, and a more likely outcome is much closer to \$1 trillion," he added.

Bergsten said the United States needs to shift its annual international trade balance by about \$200 billion, more than the current deficit, because the additional cost of interest on the foreign debt will be close to \$50 billion by the early 1990s. It would be reasonable to try to reach this target in four or five years, he said.

He said it can be done only by cutting the federal budget deficit by \$150 to \$200 billion

Industrial shares continue to dominate AFM trading

AMMAN (Petra) — The daily average of trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during the past week amounted to JD 401,149 based on a total volume of JD 2,005,745 registered throughout the week.

An AFM bulletin said that the total number of shares traded in the past week stood at 1,838,801 conducted through a total of 2,025 transactions.

Sunday was the peak day when the volume of trade reached JD 500,000.

According to the bulletin, industrial shares accounted for JD 1,100,706 or 63.8 per cent of the total in the past week whereas the shares of banks and financial institutions amounted to JD 433,520 or 21.6 per cent of the total.

The services and insurance sectors recorded 9.1 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively.

Prices of insurance shares showed a slight decline in the past week while prices of services shares held steady, according to the bulletin.

The prices of industrial and financial shares edged up marginally. Shares of 69 companies changed hands in the past week with 18 of them showing a slight price rise, 29 declining in value and the rest holding steady.

The price index of all shares closed at 117.4 points compared to an opening of 117.6, thus showing a 0.2 points decline.

Karak Chamber of Commerce sends memorandum to Tabbaa

KARAK (Petra) — The Karak Chamber of Commerce held a meeting here Thursday during which a number of matters of interest to the city's commercial sector were discussed.

At the end of the meeting, the chamber board sent a memorandum to industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa presenting the commercial sector's needs and requesting the setting up of a flour mill, grain silos and refrigerated warehouses in the Karak region.

The chamber decided also to take part in an Arab chambers of commerce meeting to be held in Damascus in the coming month.

Minister meets Omani envoy, ambassador of Cyprus

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry, Trade, and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa discussed with Khamis Ibn Ali, a member of Oman's chamber of industry, means of bolstering industrial and trade links between Oman and Jordan.

The Omani official is visiting Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials and businessmen to prepare for a visit by a delegation from the Omani chamber of industry and trade in the coming month.

The delegation's visit is designed to explore ways for increasing bilateral economic and trade relations.

Tabbaa Thursday met with Cyprus's ambassador to Jordan Nicolas Makris and discussed with him Jordan's trade and industrial relations with Cyprus.

Al Jaber approves town budgets

AMMAN (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber has approved a JD 78,605 budget for the town of Kufir Abil.

The funds will be used for opening roads and purchasing plots of land for public use.

The minister also approved a JD 82,416 budget for Judeita town where the funds will be mostly used for opening roads and lighting streets.

A JD 92,193 budget was also endorsed by the minister for the town of Taibeh which will carry out similar projects.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7695/7705	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2530/40	Canadian dollar
	1.6947/52	Deutschmarks
	1.9021/31	Dutch guilders
	1.4025/35	Swiss francs
	35.35/40	Belgian francs
	5.7300/30	French francs
	1247/1248	Italian lire
	128.90/129.00	Japanese yen
	6.009/0140	Swedish crowns
	6.3790/3840	Norwegian crowns
	6.4735/85	Danish crowns
	429.50/430.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

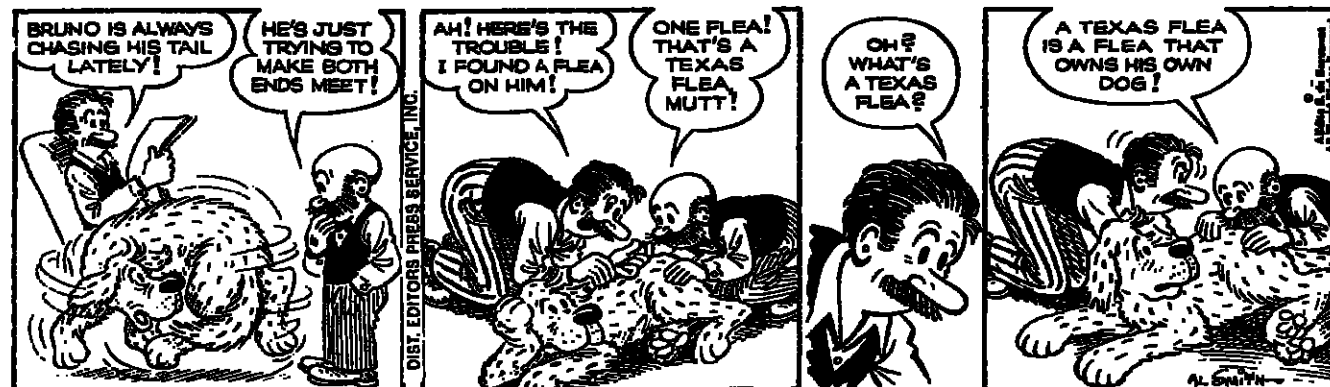
LONDON (R) — Equities settled back in late trading into the recent upward trend on continued optimism about the forthcoming U.K. budget. But there was a slight hiccup just after midday when data from the U.S. showed a huge and unexpected rise in non-farm payroll employment, dealers said.

U.K. shares came off their highs after an early decline on Wall Street, where the employment data was at first seen as a sign that U.S. interest rates may have to rise to dampen the economy. However, later Wall Street hauled itself off its lows on the belief that the employment rise was a sign that there would be no recession in the U.S.

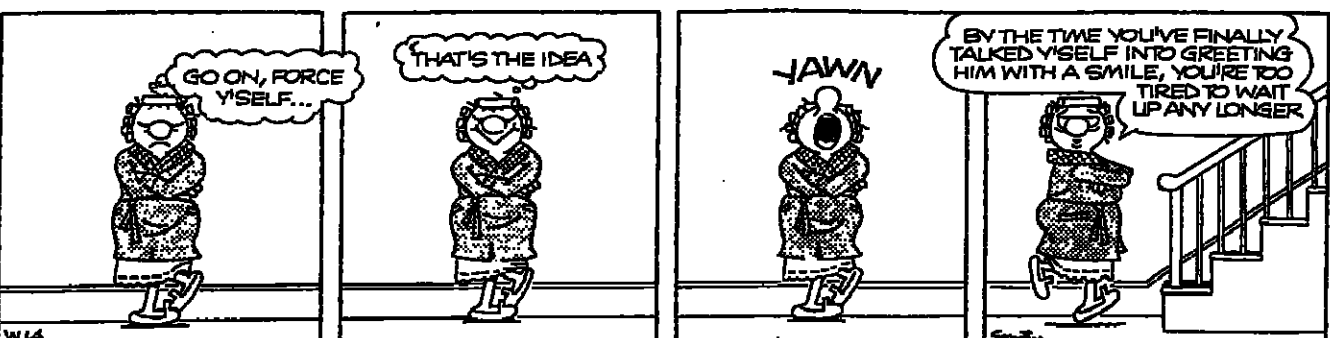
Peanuts



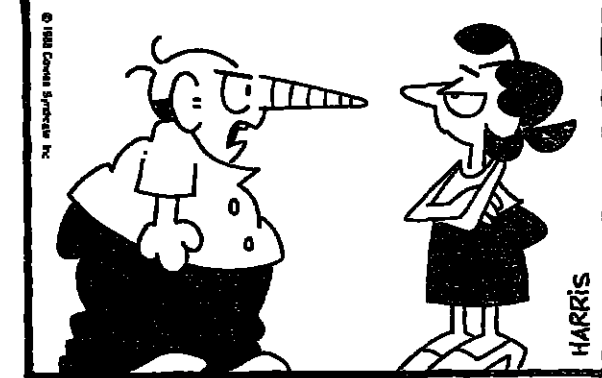
Mutt'n' Jeff



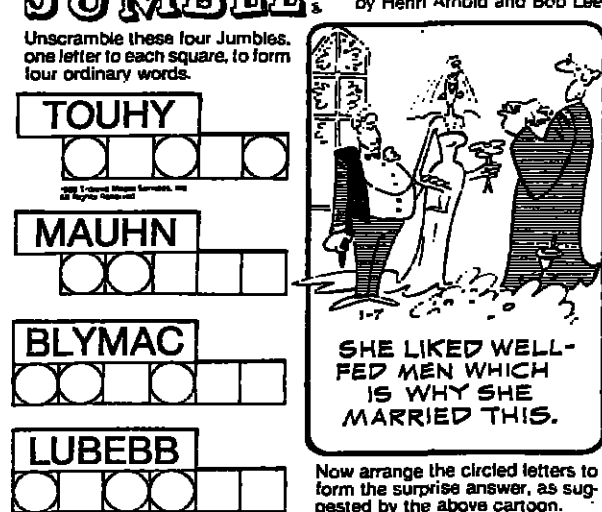
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Yesterday's Jumbles: MOUSY CHUTE INTONE BROGUE

Answer: What you might get from one hug — "ENOUGH"

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have to use more than ordinary self-control while dealing with others, so don't lose your temper. This evening will be a good time for any kind of socializing, and romance is on an upswing.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Be sure you do nothing which will alienate others, especially in the business world. Take the time to talk to your loved ones.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): If conditions at work are not pleasant, keep quiet and avoid a big argument. Be sure that you drive with the utmost care this evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You had planned a happy, carefree day, but take care of your responsibilities. Don't argue with your mate in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Several problems have to be straightened out early today before you can establish harmony at home. Entertain guests tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23): You may be tempted to tell off an associate who is not living up to your expectations, but hold your tongue. Enjoy a hobby with a good friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23): Don't listen to a usually trusted adviser who could get you in some serious trouble. Use your common sense, and don't overstep.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23): Get together for a night on the town with a group of congenial friends, but get all your work finished before you go out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21): Something which has been upsetting you can now be cleared up easily. Avoid an argument with your mate, and have a happy evening.

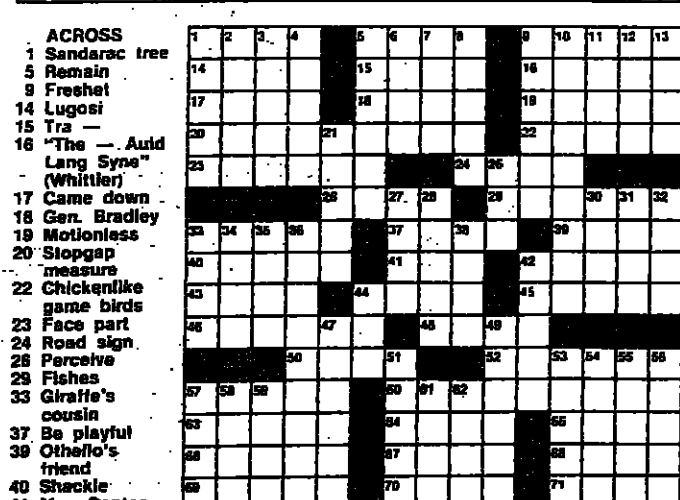
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A close friend of yours has been acting strangely. Rather than arguing about this, see what the problem is and try to help solve it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): This morning is a good time to handle your shopping and errands, as you could find some real bargains. Get out on the town tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Don't make any radical changes in your immediate environment today. This would be a good evening to make some new friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Don't follow your hunches today, as your judgment is not really up to par. Don't become involved in the troubles of a friend tonight.

THE Daily Crossword by Margorie Pedersen



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Moscow seeks to contain Armenia-Azerbaijan feud

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities in troubled Transcaucasia struggled Friday to prevent a spread of feuding between Armenians and Azerbaijanis following ethnic riots in which seven members of one family were said to have died.

Reports reached Moscow of meetings to promote friendship and efforts to help refugees from the unrest, which broke out after Armenians called for the return of a region now ruled from the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan.

An Armenian in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait with whom Reuters was connected from Moscow when seeking to telephone the local Communist Party headquarters said seven members of a single family died in riots which broke out Sunday.

The clearly distraught man, who said he was a refugee from the violence, sobbed as he spoke from a club house opposite the party building where he said refugees were waiting to be moved out of Sumgait.

He said there had been cases of

murder, rape and robbery of Armenians in two days of ethnic disturbances.

"But then the troops came in and helped us," he said, apparently referring to a military-supervised curfew imposed Monday and backed by armoured troops.

Moscow maintained an effective news blackout clearly designed to prevent reports of violence from provoking further incidents.

In the absence of comment from Azerbaijani officials who had earlier helped journalists, Moscow dissident Sergei Grigoryants said Armenians buried relatives Thursday killed in riots in Sumgait, which lies on the Caspian Sea and is Azerbaijan's second city after the capital Baku.

Grigoryants, himself half-

Armenian, has quoted Armenian sources as saying 17 died and 70 were injured in the Sumgait riots although the Soviet Foreign Ministry has said only that an unspecified number were killed.

The man said he wanted to get right away — not just to neighbouring Armenia, where hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated last week in the capital, Yerevan, for the return of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

"But we are afraid we will be deceived and that we will not be taken out of the city," he said. "We built this city, we taught them..." were his last words before he was cut off without having given his name.

He seemed to be referring to the crash building of the city in the 1940s by "International Youth Brigades" from all over the Soviet Union which transformed Sumgait from a dusty seaside village to Azerbaijan's second city.

Sumgait has a population of 223,000 and the man said 17,000 of them were Armenians.

'Holi' turns bloody in Punjab

AMRITSAR (Agencies) — Sikh gunmen killed at least 34 people and injured 40 others in a hail of gunfire Friday on a holiday gathering in Punjab state, police said.

The attack in Hoshiarpur district was one of the bloodiest since Sikh extremists launched a guerrilla war for an independent homeland in the northern state in 1982.

Punjab security forces and New Delhi police were put on alert after the killing to prevent any backlash.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Police said both Hindus and Sikhs were among those killed and injured in the assault, which came as India began its celebration of "holi" — or festival of colour — a national holiday commemorating the triumph of Hindu King Krishna over evil.

Brij Kishore, deputy police superintendent at the state capital of Chandigarh, said the dead included one woman and the injured, four children.

He said villagers had gathered around two bonfires and were singing songs to celebrate the festival when gunmen drove up in three cars and opened fire.

One villager told police: "the terrorists played holi with innocent blood," a reference to the traditional holi game of smearing relatives and friends with red powder to mark the festival.

The holi holiday, observed by both Hindus and Sikhs, traditionally begins with ritual bonfires followed by a day of merry-making.

News of the massacre coincided with an announcement by India's home ministry that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had freed five Sikh priests and revoked detention orders against other Sikh prisoners to help cut support for the separatist campaign.

A ministry spokesman said the five priests were released Friday morning from a New Delhi jail, where they had been detained for up to two years by the Indian government, and flown to the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

He said detention orders against more than 40 suspected Sikh militants jailed in Jodhpur in the northern state of Rajasthan had also been revoked.

"This is the first gesture by the Indian government. It is beginning. More will be released in the future," he said.

He said the government would eventually release all suspected extremists in Jodhpur except those classified as "hardcore extremists" and those arrested for "waging war against the country."

More than 350 suspected militants are now held in Jodhpur.

Rat-borne epidemic peaking in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Public health officials said Thursday an epidemic spread by rats may finally be peaking after killing 34 people.

The disease leptospirosis, caused by a viral bacteria usually transmitted by rats, struck Rio following devastating floods and mudslides last month.

"The infected people who haven't shown symptoms so far should show them in the coming days," a doctor for the Rio de Janeiro state health secretariat told Reuters.

The epidemic appeared after Rio state was ravaged by heavy rains, floods and mudslides that left nearly 300 people dead.

The leptospirosis epidemic has hit hardest in Rio's poor northern suburbs, where rats are said to outnumber humans by more than four to one.

Dozens of victims have come from squatter settlements that have sprouted up in recent weeks on the city's outskirts.

At one such settlement located on a state-owned vacant lot, squatters complained that promised aid had not reached them.

"I would like to know what they're doing with all those tonnes of food that rich people are donating," said a woman who identified herself as Dona Locinda.

NATO leaders hail strength and unity

BRUSSELS (R) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders have proclaimed their strength and unity, ending a two-day summit with a renewed commitment to nuclear defence.

Heads of state and government from the 16 NATO nations endorsed Thursday President Ronald Reagan's search for a fresh arms deal with Moscow and smoothed over differences about the modernisation of the alliance's short-range nuclear weapons.

In their final declaration, the allies pledged to stay vigilant about massive Soviet military power which they said remained a fundamental source of tension between East and West.

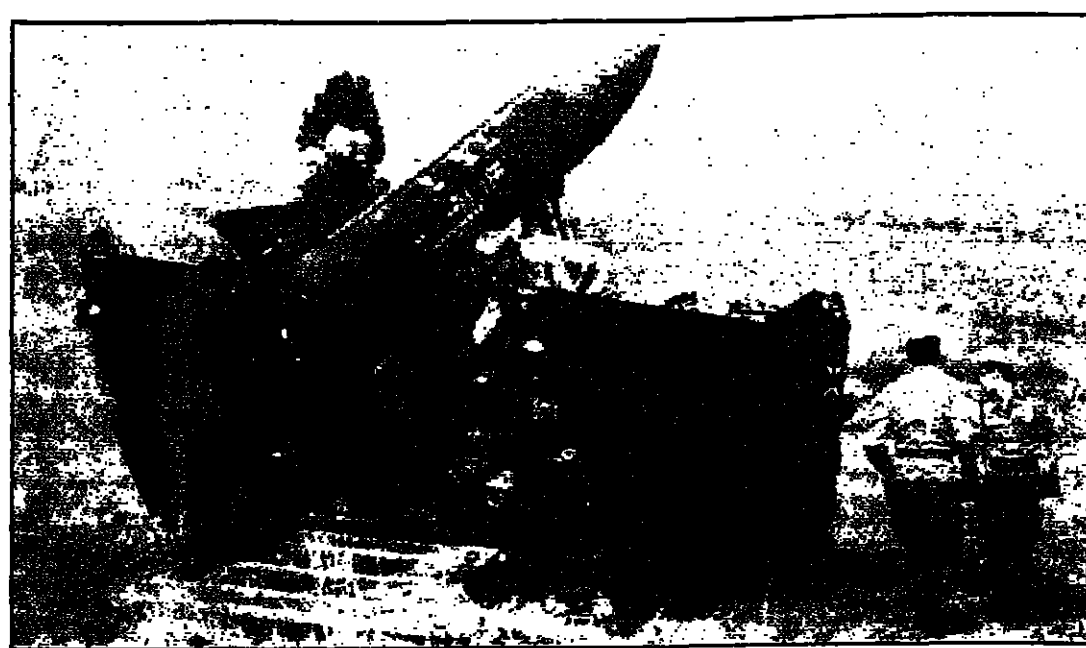
"For the foreseeable future there is no alternative to the alliance strategy for the prevention of war," the NATO leaders said in their closing communique.

"This is the strategy of deterrence based upon an appropriate mix of adequate and effective nuclear and conventional forces which will continue to be kept up to date where necessary."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who was the most anxious to avoid a specific commitment to the upgrading of short-range nuclear weapons, said the summit had effectively put back a decision to the "first third of the 1990s."

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington rejected suggestions that the final declaration was a "fudge" and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a key figure in moves to modernise weaponry, said she was satisfied with the declaration.

Reagan, who hopes to sign a pact halving superpower strategic



A Lance short-range nuclear missile at the ready during NATO exercises in West Germany

arsenals when he meets Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev at a summit in Moscow in late May, flew home to Washington Thursday night buoyed by NATO resolve.

"The state of the alliance is excellent," he told reporters after the closing summit session. "We're strong, we're united, we're prosperous and we're free."

"All of us understand the absolute necessity of maintaining the credibility of our deterrent," Reagan said.

"We will never trade that credibility away at the negotiating table, and we won't give it away through neglect."

Glossing over differences about when to modernise NATO nuclear weapons, the leaders pledged to maintain the alliance's

nuclear and conventional military might.

"For the foreseeable future there is no alternative to the alliance strategy for the prevention of war. This is a strategy of deterrence based upon an appropriate mix of adequate and effective nuclear and conventional forces which will continue to be kept up to date where necessary," their communique said.

Amid strong public pressure for new arms cuts after last year's superpower treaty to ban intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), NATO said it would seek talks with the Warsaw Pact on cutting conventional arms.

The NATO leaders demanded the scrapping of tens of thousands of Soviet tanks and artillery pieces which they said cast a shadow over Europe.

NATO's supreme commander in Europe, General John Galvin, welcomed the commitment of the heads of state and government to keep NATO forces strong.

"The declarations of the NATO summit are right on the mark," Galvin said in a statement, adding they showed "the determination of NATO's leaders to combine a strong deterrent posture with a realistic approach to arms control."

On the touchy issue of modernising short-range nuclear arms, mainly based in West Germany, the communique avoided the word "modernisation."

The prospect of updating nuclear weapons in West Germany has raised fears in Bonn that it could be singled out as a target for attack by Warsaw Pact missiles.

Reagan seeks alternative contra aid plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives has rejected an aid package for the Nicaraguan Contras, leaving them starved of U.S. support, but President Reagan is urging Congress to approve an alternative package.

The House stunned Democratic leaders Thursday by rejecting the Democrats' plan to send the rebels \$30.5 million of food, clothing and medicine by 216 votes to 208.

The Democratic leaders had promised to seek approval for a non-military aid package after the house killed a request by Reagan for \$36.25 million of assistance, some military, a month ago.

Reagan, who had urged the house by letter to reject the Democratic plan, told reporters as he flew back Thursday from a NATO summit in Brussels that

he was "very happy" with the outcome.

In a statement issued later, he called on Congress to quickly approve a new aid package.

"I call on the house and the Senate to act urgently to develop an aid package that is effectively deliverable and of sufficient quantity to sustain the freedom fighters," he said.

"If not, the prospects for peace and democracy inside Nicaragua will diminish quickly."

Contra officials called the house vote a setback.

"We will still fight on but this will set our strategy back," contra spokesman Bosco Matamoros said in Washington. "The vote of the liberal Democrats will only increase Sandinista intransigence."

In Managua, the Nicaraguan government welcomed the rejection

of the aid package for the rebels, calling it a contribution to peace in the region.

Alejandro Bendana, first secretary of the Foreign Ministry, said in a statement Thursday that the Reagan administration "now has the opportunity to immediately end all type of aid to the mercenary forces."

The government also said it was time that Reagan dealt directly with President Daniel Ortega in order to negotiate security matters and normalise relations.

It called on Washington to support face-to-face peace talks between the government and the contras, due to take place on Nicaraguan territory just north of the Costa Rican border from March 9-11.

The government has asked Costa Rican President Oscar

Arias to allow contra leaders to pass through his country on their way to the meeting.

The talks were proposed by Ortega Wednesday, in an unexpected concession. Nicaragua had previously insisted that they take place outside the country.

But the two sides are still divided as to whether the negotiations can cover political issues.

During talks in Guatemala last month, Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo, who acted as mediator until he was dismissed by Ortega Wednesday, proposed a series of points that included political issues.

These included calling on the Sandinistas to grant complete freedom of expression, halt compulsory military service and communicate with the internal opposition.

Aspirin firms drop claim

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Yielding to pressure from federal regulators, 10 major U.S. aspirin makers have agreed to drop advertising claims that taking aspirin regularly can reduce the risk of a first heart attack.

"As of today, we have got a voluntary restraint. I am pleased that we got it expeditiously," Frank Young, head of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), told reporters after meeting representatives of the companies Wednesday.

Drug companies launched major advertising campaigns immediately after the release of a study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) concluding that an aspirin every other day dramatically lowered the risk of a first heart attack in middle-aged men.

Preliminary results were announced by the NIH in late January and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"There is a tendency when a study comes out... for people to try to change their behaviour on a single study. That is dangerous," Young said.

The FDA chief wrote to the 10

aspirin firms last week requesting a meeting Wednesday to discuss the industry's advertising claims. The letter warned the companies that advertisements claiming that aspirin prevented heart attacks might be harmful to public health and a violation of federal law.

The letter said the study's findings were preliminary and advertisements making claims for the general population might be harmful as there were classes of individuals for whom the risks would probably outweigh benefits.

Young, interviewed on the ABC television network's "Good Morning America" show, said people with high blood pressure, liver disease, gout or ulcers face the risk of bleeding complications from aspirin and should seek the advice of a doctor on its usage.

He also said that while there is some evidence that healthy men between the ages of 45 and 85 might use an aspirin every other day to reduce the risk of heart attack, there is no evidence that it would help women or younger men.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARAF
1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BEATING THE BREAK

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ 9
♦ K J 10 9
♦ Q 8 3
♦ A K 9 6 5

WEST
♦ J 8 6 4
♦ Q 10 7 3
♦ 7 6 5 4 2
♦ 10 8 7 4

EAST
♦ Q 10 7 3
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 7
♦ Q J

SOUTH
♦ A K 5 2
♦ A Q 8 2
♦ A 9
♦ J 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠. Don't let a bad break distract you from your primary purpose. Cast around for some alternative. Even a virtually sure-thing one could be available.

North's hand was right on the border of a simple raise to two hearts and an invitation to raise to three hearts. So when South announced possession of all the aces and invited a grand slam by bidding five no trump, North felt his single-ten, two kings and good trumps merited contracting for all the tricks.

West led his fourth-best diamond and it appeared that two spade ruffs

in dummy would be all that was needed to bring in 13 tricks. After winning the first trick in hand, everything changed when declarer led a low trump to the nine and West showed out.

East's fifth trump was likely to prove bothersome. The only way to land the grand was going to be via a cross-ruff, and correct technique requires you to cash all the winners you need before embarking on any ruffs.

Here declarer intended scoring seven trump tricks, so he needed only six side-suit winners. The obvious danger was that three rounds of diamonds would not live. Declarer side-stepped that pitfall with careful play.

He led a diamond to the ace, and when East followed, all was well. The ace-king of clubs were cashed, then the ace-king of spades. On the second spade declarer discarded the board's last diamond. It was now an easy matter to ruff two spades and a diamond in dummy and three clubs in the closed hand as East under-ruffed helplessly with his five little trumps.

Notice how important it was for declarer to lead his low trump at trick two. Had he carelessly led a high trump, East could have set up a trump trick by ruffing every time a club was led from dummy. At the end he would be left with the heart seven while South held the deuce.

Tension flares over Falklands

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentina said Thursday it was preparing its military defenses as tension mounted in the South Atlantic with Britain preparing to fly troops and Phantom fighters to the disputed Falkland Islands.

The government in a communique also warned "ships under other flags" of possible incidents around the archipelago over which Argentina fought a war with Britain in 1982.

But a British Defence Ministry spokesman in London said that British military manoeuvres around the Falklands scheduled to start Monday were not intended to be provocative.

"It is not meant in any way to be provocative to Argentina, who, incidentally, have still not declared an end to hostilities," he said.

"There are fewer than 1,000

British troops taking part in this exercise and only a handful of aeroplanes. Nor is it a naval exercise," he said.

The Argentine government said in the communique that the manoeuvres "will be kept under tight surveillance." The armed forces were being put "on defensive alert," it said.

But Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena said that for the moment there would be no mobilisation of troops.

"If necessary, the corresponding defence plans (will be) put into execution," the government said.

Jaunarena said earlier that the government was drawing up a series of "answers for each of the hypotheses that could arise" in the South Atlantic. He said the plans were a state secret.

Argentina claims sovereignty

of the Falkland Islands as an inheritance from the days of Spanish colonial rule. It says that Britain, which has ruled the islands as a colony since 1833, stole them.

Britain's minister of state for the armed forces, Ian Stewart, told the House of Commons Thursday night that the exercise, code-named Fire Focus, involves an airlift and is part of a defensive strategy to keep a minimum of troops in the islands about 650 kilometres east of the southern Argentine coast.

Last June the British Defence Ministry announced it was reducing the strength of its Falklands garrison, but refused to disclose the size of the cut. Published reports at the time said the move would cut the garrison then consisting of more than 2,500 troops by about 400.

Curbs hit anti-apartheid groups

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's plan to stop foreign funding of anti-apartheid and black opposition organisations could block the flow of more than \$200 million a year to about 80 groups, according to Western diplomats and experts.

A survey by Reuters showed a proposed new law — part of a government crackdown — could cripple projects run by churches, trade unions and education groups that have little or nothing to do with politics.

The threatened groups, heavily dependent on foreign grants, are involved in legal aid, business development, medical care and other community issues.

"It's obviously part of the general pattern to outlaw or criminalise any form of opposition outside the structures created by

the government," said Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, head of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative in South Africa and former leader of the liberal Progressive Federal Party.

"It's a form of legalised witch-hunt," he said. Van Zyl Slabbert disclosed that the institute, which last year organised a meeting of white liberals and exiled leaders of the African National Congress guerrilla group, received 80 per cent of its funds from abroad.

The new law, presently before parliament, could force institute to close, he added.

Titled the promotion of orderly internal politics bill, the legislation would empower the justice minister to seize foreign funds received by any person or group he declared "restricted."

On another front, President P.W. Botha said Thursday that decisive election losses to the far right were "temporary disappointments," but his National Party faces painful choices about its racial policies.

Jubilant leaders of the Conservative Party said victories in two parliamentary by-elections Wednesday showed that increasing numbers of whites favoured a strengthening of apartheid and opposed even a token political role for the black majority.

Botha must now decide whether to appease these voters or move ahead with his cautious, sporadic reform programme. The far right views his call for limited power-sharing as tantamount to surrender, while most black leaders and white liberals reject it as totally inadequate.

COLUMN

Asians to pass 3b mark this year

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — The birth of a baby sometime in the second half of 1988 will bring Asia's population to three billion, an official has predicted. Rahmah Osman, deputy secretary of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, told reporters Wednesday that the exact day it happens will be determined by the forum's secretariat based in Japan. Osman said during an executive meeting of the forum it was agreed that Asian countries would hold programmes, including seminars and exhibitions, to help people realise the significance of the population issue. Asia's population accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the world's population, which passed the five billion mark in mid-1987, according to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

Hare Krishna devotees want to beat drums in Adelaide

ADELAIDE (R) — Hare Krishna devotees may be allowed back on the streets of Adelaide — but only five of them with one cymbal and one drum for one hour a day, three days a week. The orange robes and shaven heads of the chanting disciples have not been seen in the south Australian state capital since 1984 when they were banned from the "city of churches" for making too much noise. The religious group is hoping its compromise plan put to the city's lord mayor Thursday will end the ban. Devotees say Adelaide is the only place in the world where their activities are restricted. "We're actually allowed on the streets in Leningrad now," Hare Krishna spokesman Gary Anderson told reporters. The proposal will be considered by several committees before being presented to the full city council in April.

Texas with cirrhosis sues whisky companies

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (R) — A retired oil refinery worker with cirrhosis of the liver has filed suit against two whisky companies blaming them for his health problems. The suit, filed in federal court in Beaumont, Texas, earlier this week, says David Freeman, 61, "consumed a great deal of alcohol manufactured by the defendants." Canadian club whisky and calvert whisky, Freeman, who was diagnosed as having cirrhosis in 1986, contends that advertising by the companies promoted drinking without warning about "the addictive nature of alcohol," the suit says. The companies also failed to test their products to determine the amount of alcohol that can be consumed safely over a long period, according to the suit. Freeman's wife Inez Freeman told Reuters the amount of damages sought has not been determined yet.

Bandits rob armoured van on highway

SEREGNO (AP) — Armed bandits ambushed an armoured van on a highway Thursday, placed a hand grenade on the hood to force the security guards out of the vehicle and stole 1.6 billion lire (\$1.3 million) in cash and bonds, a news agency reported. The van, transporting money from Milan to two banks in Sondrio in northern Italy, was held up on the superhighway here just outside Milan by a gang of bandits riding in four cars. A policeman in Seregno contacted by telephone said he had no details. The news agency ANSA gave the following account: A gunman in one of the cars shot out the tires of the van, while another car rammed it from behind and a third cut it off from the front. The fourth car parked on the shoulder of the highway heading in the other direction. Four men armed with pistols and rifles got out of the cars. When the driver and two security guards stayed locked inside the van, the gunmen placed a grenade on the hood. Fearing they would be blown up, the three got out. The driver was hit over the head with a pistol butt, while the two others were forced to open the safe. A police explosives expert later detonated the grenade in a nearby field.